

STRANGER THINGS

#409

THE PIGGYBACK

With selfless hearts and a clash of metal, heroes fight from every corner of the battlefield to save Hawkins - and the world itself.

EXT. KYRZRAN CHURCH - SHED – NIGHT

Yuri works on fixing Katinka, which is parked outside the shed. Murray and Dimitri stand a short distance back, keeping an eye on him.

MURRAY: It's perfect. Somewhere like...

DIMITRI: Yeah.

MURRAY: I can totally see it. You in Indiana.

Yuri glances over at Murray and Dimitri.

DIMITRI: Indiana?

MURRAY: Yeah. Well, you have a certain stoic...more Clint Eastwood than...

Yuri takes something out of the engine and hides it in his jacket pocket. He turns to Murray and Dimitri with a grin.

YURI: Good news, my friends. Katinka feeling better. Shall we give her another try?

MURRAY: Why not?

Murray chuckles.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Asshole.

Dimitri scoffs as Yuri moves to climb into the cockpit.

DIMITRI: This guy.

Yuri hops into the cockpit and starts flicking buttons. He mutters something in Russian before pressing another button. The engine splutters and wheezes. Murray and Dimitri look at each other. The engine jolts, and they start running towards the cockpit.

MURRAY: Yuri! That's enough. That's enough! Hey!

Murray reaches into the cockpit and pulls Yuri's hand away from the button. The engine stops.

MURRAY (CONT'D): The hell you think you're doing?

YURI: Get your hands off me, potatohead.

MURRAY: You're trying to break her, aren't ya? Get us captured again so you can get your reward? That it?

Yuri pulls his hand away.

YURI: What do you two lizard brains know? You're engineers now?

DIMITRI: I know that sound is not good.

YURI: On contrary, those noises you hear, that...

Yuri imitates the engine spluttering.

YURI (CONT'D): It's very good sign.

MURRAY: Good sign, huh?

YURI: Yeah. My women make noise when I please them. You don't know what that is like. I understand.

Murray scoffs.

YURI (CONT'D): But for those like me who knows what and where to touch, much noise.

Yuri presses the button. The engine starts spluttering again. Murray shakes his head. Yuri takes his hand off the button, and the spluttering stops. He presses the button, and the engine starts spluttering again. Murray sighs.

INT. KYRZRAN CHURCH – STORAGE ROOM – NIGHT

Joyce paces as Hopper searches the crates for clothes. Hopper hands Joyce a shirt and a pair of jeans before turning back around to grab her a jacket and some boots.

HOPPER: Yeah. These are the smallest I could find. That's it for shirts.

Joyce unfolds the shirt.

JOYCE: Oh, well...

Joyce turns the shirt around. It's a Hulk Hogan t-shirt.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Cute.

Hopper chuckles.

HOPPER: Yuri has good taste. What can I say?

Hopper hands Joyce the jacket and boots. She looks around.

JOYCE: Um...

Joyce turns and bumps into Hopper.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Oh, sorry.

HOPPER: Sorry.

Joyce chuckles.

JOYCE: I'll go over here.

HOPPER: Okay.

Joyce and Hopper split off to different ends of the room, both hiding behind shelving. They start to get changed into the new clothes, glancing in each other's direction as they do so. Hopper grunts slightly as he pulls his shirt off, revealing whip scars on his back and chest. He spots a small box on the shelf in front of him, and he opens it to find a gauze. He holds it in his mouth as he gently unwraps his arm, inhaling sharply. Joyce pulls her shirt on and turns to look at Hopper, seeing him bandaging his arm. His whip scars are visible through the shelving. She walks over to him as he finishes wrapping his arm.

JOYCE: What did they do to you?

Hopper turns around and sees Joyce. He suddenly looks a little uncomfortable.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Oh my God.

HOPPER: No, it's not that bad. It's...you know, I needed to lose weight anyway.

JOYCE sighs. She gives him a look.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You know, it's actually given me time to think, you know? About who I've been and...and what I've done.

JOYCE stares at Hopper.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I never should've sent you that message.

JOYCE: You didn't know what was gonna happen.

HOPPER: I knew it'd be dangerous.

JOYCE: So did I. I made this choice. And I would choose it again, even knowing everything that I know. I would. Plus, you know, we do have that date to get to.

Joyce chuckles.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Remember?

Hopper chuckles.

HOPPER: 'Remember'? I've been dreaming about it.

JOYCE: Oh, yeah?

HOPPER: Yeah. I have it all planned out.

JOYCE: Pray tell.

HOPPER: I'm getting two orders of breadsticks. Two. Those things knock your socks off. Enzo puts some spice on em. I don't know what it is, but it's good. And you dip it in olive oil? Forget about it. And, uh, I'm wavering on the main course between the veal and the lasagna. But I think I gotta go with lasagna, right?

JOYCE: So, you...you've been dreaming about breadsticks and lasagna?

HOPPER: I've been on a diet of watery soup, mouldy bread, and maggots, so, yeah, I've been dreaming about breadsticks and lasagna. I mean, sue me.

Joyce chuckles. Hopper takes a small step forward.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Should I have been dreaming about something else?

JOYCE: You tell me.

Joyce stares at Hopper.

HOPPER: Well, there's wine.

JOYCE: Oh, well, wine's good.

HOPPER: I was thinking about a nice 'Cheeanti'.

JOYCE: Chianti.

HOPPER: Chianti, right. Then there's dessert.

JOYCE: Oh, you gotta have dessert.

HOPPER: Gotta have dessert.

JOYCE: And after that?

Hopper takes another small step forward.

HOPPER: I don't know.

JOYCE: Use your imagination.

HOPPER: Who needs imagination?

The two start kissing, making up for lost time. Hopper spins them around and walks backwards, knocking into a crate. Joyce exclaims, and he chuckles. The phone rings, making them break away and look at it. Joyce groans.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Damn it!

Hopper runs towards the phone.

JOYCE: Remember, they're listening!

Hopper picks up the phone.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – NIGHT

The trailer is parked in a hidden area close to the trailer park.

NANCY (O.S.): Okay. I wanna run through it one more time.

INT. STOLEN TRAILER

Robin, Dustin, Eddie, Steve, and Nancy sit or stand around the trailer. They all look a little nervous.

NANCY (CONT'D): Phase one.

ROBIN: We meet Erica at the playground. She'll signal Max and Lucas when we're ready.

NANCY: Phase two.

STEVE: Max baits Vecna. He'll go after her, which'll put him in his trance.

NANCY: Phase three?

DUSTIN: Me and Eddie draw the bats away.

NANCY: Four.

ROBIN: We head into Vecna's hopefully newly bat-free lair, and...

Robin shakes a Molotov.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Flambe.

NANCY: Nobody moves onto the next phase until we've all copied. Nobody deviates from the plan, no matter what. Got it?

ROBIN, DUSTIN, EDDIE, and STEVE (IN UNISON): Got it.

They grab their things and leave.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – NIGHT

Nancy, Robin, Steve, Dustin, and Eddie leave the woods and head for the Munson trailer.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Steve opens the door and turns the lights on, quickly followed by the others. They all stare at the Gate. Steve takes his bag off and drops it to the ground, preparing to climb.

DUSTIN: Be careful.

STEVE: Thanks, buddy.

Steve grabs the sheets.

STEVE (CONT'D): Here goes nothing.

Steve starts climbing.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve grunts as he pulls himself through the Gate. He takes a deep breath, still on the right side of gravity. He continues climbing, and does a modified flip to land on his feet as his sense of gravity changes. He looks up through the Gate, makes a 'see?' expression before walking away.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Robin does sarcastic jazz hands.

ROBIN: What does he want us to do, applaud?

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve drags Eddie's mattress from his room into the lounge room, dropping it underneath the Gate. He moves the sheets so the end isn't caught under the mattress.

STEVE: All right. Let's go.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Nancy pulls her bag off and sets it on the ground. Robin kneels, and Nancy uses her knee as a boost up as she climbs.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Nancy's sense of gravity changes as she moves through the Gate, and she grunts as she lands on the mattress. Steve helps her up.

STEVE (CONT'D): Gotcha.

The others toss Nancy and Steve's stuff through, which land on the mattress. Eddie lands on the mattress with a grunt, and Steve helps him up. One of the shields lands on the mattress and is pulled off. Robin lands on the mattress with a yell, and Steve and Eddie help her up. Then it's Robin's bag,

then the spears. Dustin lands on the mattress with a grunt. He sits up, and Eddie and Robin grab his hoodie and pull him off the mattress.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Nancy opens the door and walks out, followed by Robin and Steve. The trio begin to walk in the direction of the Creel house as Dustin and Eddie walk out of the trailer, the pair staying back. Steve stops and turns to them.

STEVE (CONT'D): Hey, guys, listen.

Nancy and Robin stop and turn around.

STEVE (CONT'D): If things here start to go south, I mean, at all, you abort. Okay? Draw the attention of the bats. Keep em busy for a minute or two. We'll take care of Vecna. Don't try to be cute or be a hero or something. Okay? You guys are just-

STEVE and DUSTIN (IN UNISON): Decoys.

Steve gives a small nod.

DUSTIN: Don't worry. You can be the hero, Steve.

EDDIE: Absolute. I mean, look at us. We are not heroes.

Eddie smiles as he chuckles slightly. Steve nods and turns around to start walking.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Hey, Steve?

Eddie steps forward. Steve stops and turns around.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Make him pay.

Steve nods. The group splits off, with Steve, Robin, and Nancy heading off in the direction of the Creel house and Dustin and Eddie staying behind at the trailer.

Cut to black.

MAIN TITLES.

CHAPTER NINE: THE PIGGYBACK.

EXT. NEVADA GAS STATION – NIGHT

The van is parked at a pump. Argyle stands next to the van. Jonathan, Mike, Will, and Eleven stand at the payphone, with Jonathan on the phone.

JONATHAN: No, no. Like I said, I...I've tried everyone. Yeah, TWA, Pan Am, Eastern.

The person on the other line responds indistinctly.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): No, no, it doesn't have to be a one-way. I'll take one seat, if you have it.

The person on the other line responds indistinctly. Eleven turns around and stares at a big billboard.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): I mean, please, there has to be something that you can do. One of our family members is really, really sick, and I don't know if she's gonna make it through the night.

The person on the other line responds indistinctly. Eleven starts walking towards the billboard.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Is there any way that you could just...

The person on the other line responds indistinctly.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): No. No. No. No, like I said before, I...I've tried them already.

The person on the other line responds indistinctly.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Okay, well, is there any way that I could speak to a manager?

The person on the other line responds indistinctly.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): There...there's no one there?

The person on the other line responds indistinctly.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): No, that's the problem. I can't call back.

Eleven stares at the little girl on the billboard.

TERRY (O.S.): Breathe. Sunflower.

FLSHBCK – INT. IVES HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Eleven sits on the floor between Terry and the TV. Becky sits off to the side. Eleven has a blindfold on her face.

TERRY (CONT'D): Rainbow. Three to the right. Four to the...

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. VOID

Eleven opens her eyes, finding Terry in her rocking chair in front of her.

TERRY (CONT'D): Three.

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. VOID

Billy grabs Eleven's arm roughly.

TERRY (CONT'D)(O.S.): Rainbow.

Flashback to #306. A California beach. Young Billy runs up to his mother.

FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – ELEVEN'S MINDSCAPE

Billy stalks towards Eleven.

ELEVEN: Get away!

Eleven screams, lifting her hand and using her powers to throw Billy across the room.

Flashback to #306. Hopper's cabin's lounge room. Eleven pulls the blindfold off.

EXT. NEVADA GAS STATION – NIGHT

Jonathan slams the phone down.

JONATHAN: Damn it.

WILL: What'd they say?

JONATHAN: Earliest is tomorrow.

MIKE: No.

WILL: Shit.

MIKE: That's way too late.

JONATHAN: I know.

ARGYLE: Hey, dudes?

The boys turn to see Argyle walking towards them.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): Ask em if we can ride in the baggage compartment.

JONATHAN: The baggage compartment?

Argyle nods.

MIKE: We'd suffocate.

ARGYLE: Dogs ride in there all the time, man. They don't suffocate.

JONATHAN: Jesus Christ.

MIKE: Holy shit.

ELEVEN: I have a way.

The boys look to see Eleven walking towards them.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): A way to protect Max. From here.

EXT. NEVADA GAS STATION – NIGHT

Eleven draws on the window of the van. The boys stand behind her, watching.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): This is Max. When One attacks, he'll be in her mind. But I can do that too. I went into Mama's mind, into Billy's. I can go into Max's. She can carry me to Vecna. I can piggyback.

Eleven turns around.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I can protect her. From One. Fight him from here.

ARGYLE: Mind fight. Righteous.

MIKE: Wait, so you actually think this can work?

ELEVEN: A bathtub would help.

ARGYLE: Yeah. Gotta be clean to enter the mind.

MIKE: What? No, no. It's a sensory deprivation tank. It helps her calm down and focus on her powers.

WILL: Wait, we...we just passed a motel.

MIKE: Yeah, but they won't have enough salt.

ARGYLE: Well, how much salt are we talking here, my dudes?

JONATHAN: Well, depends on the size of the tub, but a lot.

ARGYLE: Does 600 pounds suffice?

MIKE: You know a place that has 600 pounds of salt?

Argyle steps in front of Eleven and measures her from a slight distance.

ARGYLE: Let's see...yep. Mmm-hmm.

Eleven looks weirded out. Mike and Will shake their heads.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): Yep. It'll work.

ELEVEN: What will work?

ARGYLE: I know a magical place that has all you need, my brave, little superpowered friend. That mind fight is on. Come on.

Argyle gets into the van.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): Vamonos! Let's go! Pronto!

Although confused, the others climb into the van.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – NIGHT

A blue light shines out from the attic.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Max walks through the attic, shoes off. She uses a blue lantern to light her way. Running Up That Hill (Deal With God) by Kate Bush plays from her headphones.

KATE BUSH (ON HEADPHONES): (singing) Do you want to know that it doesn't hurt me?...Do you want to hear about the deal that I'm making?...

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ROOM – NIGHT

The camera travels down to the second floor. Lucas walks around the house, using a blue lantern to light his way. His shoes are off.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – SITTING ROOM – NIGHT

Erica walks around the house, using a blue lantern to light her way. Her shoes are off. She walks out of the dining room, and the lantern glows brighter.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Erica looks for Lucas.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – MAIN BEDROOM – NIGHT

Erica finds him Lucas a bedroom and holds up a note: 'FOUND VECNA'. He nods.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – SITTING ROOM – NIGHT

Erica's lantern sits on the floor, the glow pulsing. Erica, Lucas, and Max walk up to it. Erica and Lucas stand in the doorway while Max walks closer to the lantern. Once she gets close enough, Max's lantern starts glowing as well. She turns to look at Erica and Lucas. Erica starts writing a note, then turns it to Lucas: 'PHASE ONE?' Lucas nods. Erica nods and leaves the room.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – NIGHT

Erica runs out of the house, running down the walkway and across the road to the rocket ship.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

As Erica climbs into the rocket ship, one of the townspeople walks past her with his dog. He stares at her, then turns to look at the Creel house. The blue lights of the lanterns shine through the boarded up windows. He looks at Erica, then back at the house, before tossing his cigarette aside and walking off.

EXT. BENNY'S BURGERS – BACKYARD – NIGHT

Jason shoots at football dummies. He goes to reload the pistol. Andy runs out of Benny's Burgers.

ANDY: Hey!

Andy runs up to Jason.

ANDY (CONT'D): I think we got something.

JASON: Send Ryan. I don't wanna waste any more time with bullshit leads.

ANDY: I don't think you'll wanna send Ryan on this one.

Jason turns to look at Andy.

ANDY (CONT'D): You know the murder house on Morehead?

JASON: Yeah. What about it?

EXT. KYRZRAN CHURCH - SHED – NIGHT

Yuri inspects the engine.

INT. KYRZRAN CHURCH – STORAGE ROOM – NIGHT

Murray, Joyce, Hopper, and Dimitri sit inside.

MURRAY: Okay, and, uh, who exactly was this mystery woman?

HOPPER: We're not sure. I mean, she wasn't exactly Miss Talkative. You know? I spent five minutes trying to convince her I was real. I'm supposed to be dead, remember? Anyway, I finally get around to half-convincing her, she starts to open up a little, then she says that she's...

FLASHBACK – INT. PHONE BOOTH – NIGHT

Stinson stands in the phone box.

STINSON: A friend of the Doc's.

FLASHBACK – INT. KYRZRAN CHURCH – STORAGE ROOM – NIGHT

HOPPER: Great, so am I. Now put me on the phone with him.

FLASHBACK – INT. PHONE BOOTH – NIGHT

STINSON: *I'm afraid the Doc is indisposed.*

INT. KYRZRAN CHURCH – STORAGE ROOM – NIGHT

MURRAY: 'Indisposed'?

HOPPER: It gets worse. She said the Doc's with the girl. And the girl went off to fight some evil in Hawkins. Then they all went off-grid. The Doc, the girl, everybody.

MURRAY: 'The girl', meaning...El.

HOPPER: Yeah, it has to be.

DIMITRI: This is your daughter, American?

HOPPER: Mmm-hmm. And they're not alone. Joyce's kids are with em.

Murray and Dimitri look at Joyce. She sighs.

MURRAY: Okay, I...I see the mood here is bleak. And understandably so. But I do think we need to consider the very real possibility that this mystery woman is, in fact, KGB. And she's-

JOYCE: No. She's telling the truth. When we were in the lab, those particles we saw, they were alive. And if they're alive, that means a Gate's open in Hawkins.

DIMITRI: 'Gate'? What does this mean?

HOPPER: It means we have to go home right now.

Hopper stands up and walks towards a window.

HOPPER (CONT'D): What is taking so long? I thought you said he was close.

Hopper looks at Yuri through the window. Murray and Dimitri walk towards him.

MURRAY: Yeah, close to sabotaging us, you mean.

DIMITRI: We think he's playing us again.

HOPPER: So put a goddamn gun to his head.

DIMITRI: And then what? He just spits out more lies.

MURRAY: It's moot, anyway. If your kids are truly in some kind of imminent danger, even if we were to leave this very moment, we wouldn't make it in time. The earliest we'd get there is late tomorrow.

JOYCE: No, we...we don't have to make it back. Not tonight.

Joyce walks towards them.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Whatever this evil is, we know it's connected to the hive mind. And now we know part of that hive mind is in Russia. So we don't need to get back to Hawkins to fight it.

HOPPER: All we need to do is destroy those particles.

JOYCE: And if we're lucky, it'll hurt it enough to give the kids the upper hand.

MURRAY: Wait, time out. We're talking about the particles inside the prison? The prison that we just narrowly escaped from?

HOPPER: We broke out. We can break back in.

Hopper walks towards the weapons case on the other side of the room.

MURRAY: Jim!

Murray follows Hopper.

MURRAY (CONT'D): The entire Soviet army is looking for us.

Hopper reaches the weapons case and opens it.

HOPPER: Sure. And we'll be exactly where they least expect.

Hopper tosses Murray a gun and ammo.

MURRAY: All right. There is a fine line between courage and stupidity, and this falls very far on the side of stupid.

Hopper pulls another gun out.

MURRAY (CONT'D): This is Dirty Dozen stuff. Except there are, uh, four of us.

HOPPER: Three, actually.

Hopper turns around and walks up to Dimitri.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Breaking back in's gonna be easier than breaking back out. Which is why we need an airlift. This is where you come in. I don't care what it takes. You get Yuri in line, and you get that bird in the air.

DIMITRI: On it.

Dimitri turns and leaves the room.

JOYCE: Yu...Yuri mentioned something about a flamethrower, right?

INT. KYRZRAN CHURCH – STORAGE ROOM – NIGHT

Hopper opens a crate, finding Yuri's flamethrower inside. He lifts up the barrel, admiring it.

HOPPER: Oh, yeah. This'll do. This'll do just fine.

EXT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – NIGHT

Argyle's van drives along the road, then takes a wide turn and parks in the carpark. Everyone gets out, staring at the store. Argyle fixes his visor on.

MIKE: You gotta be shitting me.

ARGYLE: Trust me on this one, my dudes.

Argyle walks towards the shop. The others sigh and follow.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Argyle 2.0 works to clean the store before close. Argyle, Jonathan, Will, Eleven, and Mike walk inside and up to the counter.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): Surf's up, my dude.

Argyle 2.0 turns around.

ARGYLE 2.0: Uh, whoa. Nice shirt, my dude.

ARGYLE: Thanks, my dude.

ARGYLE 2.0: Uh, listen, I would love to feed a fellow Surfer Boy, but kitchen closed, like, five minutes ago, so no more pies tonight, man.

Argyle chuckles.

ARGYLE: That's all right, my dude. We're not here for your tasty pies. You see this weird girl behind me?

Argyle 2.0 looks at Eleven. She smiles.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): She needs a tub with a bunch of salt so we can enhance her psychic power so she can save the world from this super bad dude. But to make this salty tub, we require your kitchen.

ARGYLE 2.0: Ah. Well, it's just, uh...I'm supposed to meet Chaz at Taco Bell in, like, ten. So...

There's silence.

JONATHAN: My dude. We're not asking you to help for free. You ever partake in...

Jonathan reaches into Argyle's shirt pocket and pulls out a Purple Palm Tree Delight.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Purple Palm Tree Delight? It'll make all your troubles float away. Like the seed pods of a dandelion in the wind.

Jonathan holds the joint out. Argyle 2.0 looks convinced.

EXT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – NIGHT

Argyle 2.0 walks out holding the joint, looking excited. Jonathan closes the door after him, changing the sign to 'CLOSED'.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Argyle walks up to the pizza-dough freezer in the back of the kitchen. He opens it and grabs a pizza-dough ball. The others walk up to him.

ARGYLE: First-ever mind fight held in a pizza dough freezer. Pretty rad, right?

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

The group forms a sort of service line as they move stuff out of the freezer and into the sink.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin uses bolt cutters to cut the wire of a fence. Eddie grabs it and pulls.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

The group forms a sort of service line as they move stuff out of the freezer and into the sink.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin chucks some poles on top of the fencing, which is laid out on a tarp. He and Eddie grab the corners of the tarp and pull it towards the trailer.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Mike, Jonathan, and Argyle pull the freezer away from the wall and wheel it into the middle of the kitchen.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin and Eddie use scrap metal to reinforce the trailer. Dustin holds a strip of metal in place as Eddie drills it in.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Mike holds the end of a hose over the freezer. Will turns the taps on, and water starts to fill the freezer from the hose.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Argyle puts a ball of pizza dough onto a flour covered counter, spreading it out.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin and Eddie use scrap metal to reinforce the trailer. Dustin holds a strip of metal in place as Eddie drills it in. Dustin drills in another place.

INT. ARGYLE'S VAN

Mike opens the door and looks in. He spots Argyle's sunglasses on the dashboard and grabs them.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie unrolls fencing around the porch as Dustin screws metal in place on the side of the trailer.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Argyle tosses the pizza dough in the air.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Jonathan sits a bag of salt on the edge of the now water-filled freezer. He cuts the bag open and dumps the salt into the water.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Argyle opens the door to the oven and slides the topped pizza in before closing the door. He turns the heat on.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin and Eddie step back, looking at their handiwork. They grin.

EDDIE: Not bad.

DUSTIN: Not bad at all.

Eddie looks at Dustin, and Dustin looks at Eddie. Eddie chuckles.

EDDIE: Now for the fun part.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – EDDIE'S ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie and Dustin walk in. Eddie stops upon seeing his guitar hanging from the mirror.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Jesus Chr...

Dustin chuckles. Eddie walks towards his guitar.

EDDIE (CONT'D): It's like...she was destined for an alternate dimension. What do you say, Henderson?

Eddie picks up his guitar.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Are you ready for the most metal concert in the history of the world?

Eddie turns to look at Dustin.

DUSTIN: Is that a rhetorical question?

Eddie slings the guitar strap over his head.

EDDIE: Let's do it.

Eddie slings the guitar over his shoulder.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – UPSIDE DOWN

Robin, Nancy, and Steve walk through the woods, headed in the direction of the Creel house. Robin walks a few metres ahead of the other two. She stops in front of a tree.

ROBIN: Uh...I don't mean to freak anyone out, but I swear we've seen this tree before.

NANCY: That's impossible.

ROBIN: That would suck, right? If Vecna destroyed the world because...cause we got lost in the woods?

Robin starts walking again, faster this time.

NANCY: We're not lost, Robin.

Robin laughs awkwardly and walks faster.

NANCY (CONT'D): Robin, hey. Watch out for the vines! Hive mind. Remember?

ROBIN: Thank you!

Robin starts running. Steve and Nancy keep walking, albeit at a normal pace.

STEVE: Uh, don't worry about her. She's just stressed. You know, scared.

NANCY: Yeah. Yeah. I...I know. It's just...

STEVE: She's a super klutz?

Nancy chuckles.

NANCY: She did tell me that it took her longer to walk than most babies, so...

Steve chuckles.

STEVE: I really shouldn't laugh. When I was a baby, I actually crawled backwards.

NANCY: Crawled backwards?

STEVE: You know, I'd push with my hands like this.

Steve moves his hands to show what he would have looked like.

STEVE (CONT'D): Beep. Beep. Always in reverse, you know? Hey, come on, it makes sense. You push to move, right?

NANCY: No, no, it doesn't make sense.

STEVE: Well, it did to my tiny little Harrington brain. That is, until I reversed my baby butt down a flight of stairs and thumped my head really good.

Nancy looks at Steve.

STEVE (CONT'D): Yeah.

NANCY: Wow. That explains so much.

STEVE: Yeah.

Steve chuckles.

STEVE (CONT'D): I think it kinda does. I think, like, right out of the gate, like, I'm super confident, you know. But I'm also, like, an idiot. Which is just...I mean, it's a brutal combination. But, I mean, the good news is, I get a big enough thump on my head, I can change, you know? I can learn. I can crawl forward.

Steve stops walking and turns to face Nancy. She stops and faces him.

STEVE (CONT'D): Listen, I guess what I'm trying to say in a really stupid, roundabout way is, um...is thank you.

NANCY: Thank me?

STEVE: Yeah.

NANCY: For...?

STEVE: For giving my head the biggest thump of its life two years ago. I needed it.

Steve starts walking again.

STEVE (CONT'D): It's changed my life.

Nancy starts walking again.

STEVE (CONT'D): And now I'm crawling forward. Slowly. I just wonder sometimes...you know, if...some other girl had given me a proper thump before we'd met, would things have been different? Like, if we were meeting together for the first time right now, part of me...

Steve stops and faces Nancy. She stops and faces him.

STEVE (CONT'D): I dunno, part of me thinks we would've made it.

NANCY: Steve...

STEVE: Remember the dream I told you about? About the Winnebago? About seeing the country with my six lil nuggets?

Nancy chuckles.

STEVE (CONT'D): It's all true. Every last word. But I left one part out. It's the most important part. You're there. You've always been there.

They're both silent.

ROBIN: Hey, guys!

Steve and Nancy turn to see Robin running towards them.

ROBIN (CONT'D): You guys! Awesome news!

Robin reaches them, panting.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Looks like we weren't going the wrong way after all. Come on.

Robin turns and starts walking.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Let's go!

STEVE: Okay.

Steve starts walking after Robin. Robin starts running.

STEVE (CONT'D): Ro...slow down! Ro...Robin!

Nancy walks after them.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – UPSIDE DOWN

The trio leave the woods to see the Creel house in the distance, a horde of Demobats flying overhead. They look over at the rocket ship, seeing a glow coming from inside.

STEVE (CONT'D): Erica.

They look at each other and start walking.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – PRISON BOOTH – NIGHT

Yuri's van slowly drives up to the. The gates are still off their hinges due to their escape earlier, but the booth is deserted.

INT. YURI'S VAN

JOYCE: Where are the guards?

HOPPER: Maybe this'll be easier than we thought.

MURRAY: I don't know, Jim. I got a bad feeling about this.

The van drives through the gates.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – PRISON BOOTH – NIGHT

A radio garbles static. Yelling, screaming, and gunfire can be heard crackling through the radio.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – NIGHT

The van is parked close to the manhole, headlights trained on the cover. Murray uses a crowbar to lift the cover and slide it over. He climbs in, followed by Joyce. Hopper climbs in and starts lowering himself down when he hears gunfire in the distance. He stops climbing and looks at the prison, seeing flashing lights from the gunfire. He climbs down.

EXT. KYRZRAN CHURCH – SHED – NIGHT

Yuri works on the helicopter engine. Dimitri smokes a cigarette as he watches him from a distance. He drops the cigarette to the ground, stubbing it out with his foot.

DIMITRI: (in Russian) I have a question.

YURI: (in Russian) What if I don't want to answer?

DIMITRI: (in Russian) Have you always been a coward?

Yuri drops his tool into his toolbox with a clatter and walks towards Dimitri.

YURI: (in Russian) Yuri Ismaylov is many things, you traitor. But he is...no coward.

DIMITRI: (in Russian) If that is so, why do you continue to stall?

YURI: (in Russian) What do I owe these Americans? Nothing!

DIMITRI: (in Russian) This isn't about America, smuggler.

Dimitri walks towards Yuri.

Dimitri (CONT'D): (in Russian) They have warned us of a great evil in the world. An evil that does not rest, that does not respect borders. And after it has consumed everything in their land, it will come for us. For our families. For our Motherland. You saw it with your own eyes. You know it to be true. And yet you continue to play tricks!

Dimitri walks past Yuri, hitting him in the chest as he does so. He stops next to the helicopter, then turns around.

DIMITRI (CONT'D): (in Russian) I was told the Peanut Butter Smuggler was once a great man. Before he lost his way to drink and cards. That he led his men to victory over the Chinese in Damansky. Is it true?

YURI: (in Russian) It is true.

DIMITRI: (in Russian) The hero, where is he now? Because I do not see him.

Dimitri turns and walks away. Yuri exhales, reaching into his pocket and pulling out the part he took from the engine. He stares at it, then at the helicopter.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – SITTING ROOM – NIGHT

Erica's lantern remains in the sitting room, pulsing rhythmically.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

The camera moves across the front door and into the lounge room, where Max and Lucas sit on opposite couches. Max has her headphones on, which faintly play Running Up That Hill (Deal With God) by Kate Bush.

KATE Bush (ON HEADPHONES): (singing) Be running up that road...be running up that hill...be running up that building...and if I only could, oh...

Max looks at Lucas, who looks at her. She picks up a notebook from beside her and starts writing something. Lucas watches. Max turns the note around: 'HI'. They both smile. Lucas grabs his own notebook from beside him and starts writing.

KATE Bush (CONT'D)(ON HEADPHONES): (singing) It's you and me...won't be unhappy...oh, come on, baby...

Lucas turns the note around: 'HI :)'. Max smiles.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON HEADPHONES): (singing) Oh, come on, darling...

Max starts writing something.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON HEADPHONES): (singing) Let me steal this moment from you now...oh, come on, angel...come on, come on, darling...

Max turns the note around: 'I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE'. They both smile. Lucas starts writing something. He turns the note around: 'ME TOO!' Lucas grins, and Max smiles. Lucas starts writing again. He turns the note around: 'MOVIE FRIDAY?' Max starts writing something. Lucas leans forward to try and look, and she angles the notebook away from him. He leans back. Max turns the note around. It's a stick figure drawing of her and Lucas, with Lucas holding a bouquet of flowers. Lucas grins. Max smiles. A light starts flashing on them, and they look at the window. Putting their notebooks down, they both go to the window to see Erica in the rocket ship outside. She flashes her torch at them.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

ERICA: Come on. Come on.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Lucas lifts his torch and flashes it back in response.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

ERICA (CONT'D): Okay, the lovebirds have copied.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

ERICA (CONT'D)(O.S.): Max is moving into phase two: distracting Vecna.

ROBIN: So far, so smooth.

STEVE: Yeah, and we're not even at the hard part yet.

Nancy stares at the Creel house. Demobats fly overhead, screeching.

NANCY: Take the bait, you son of a bitch. Take the bait.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – FOYER – NIGHT

Max sits at the bottom of the stairs, tying her shoes on. She stands up, grabbing the lantern as she looks at Lucas. They walk towards the sitting room.

KATE BUSH (ON HEADPHONES): (singing) Say, if I only could...oh...

INT. CREEL HOUSE – SITTING ROOM – NIGHT

Max rounds the doorway of the sitting room, staring at the pulsing lantern. Lucas stands behind her. She turns to look at him, looking nervous.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON HEADPHONES): (singing) You...

Max looks back at the pulsing lantern.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON HEADPHONES): (singing) You and me...

Max takes a deep breath and takes her headphones off, reaching for the Walkman.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON HEADPHONES): (singing) You and me...won't be unhappy...

Max turns the Walkman off. She takes a deep breath, waiting.

MAX: Hey! Asshole! I'm here. No more music. No more games.

The lantern continues to pulse.

MAX (CONT'D): Do you hear me? What are you waiting for, huh? Come on! Do you want me or not?

Erica's lantern stops pulsing and fades. After a few seconds, Max's lantern glows brighter and starts pulsing. She and Lucas use it to track Vecna, following him out of the sitting room and up the stairs. The camera disappears into the darkness underneath the stairs.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Mike and Eleven sit at a table. Mike shows Eleven his makeshift blindfold, made by covering Argyle's sunglasses with parts of a pizza box.

MIKE: Okay, almost done. Okay, so, hopefully this blocks out any peripheral light, right?

Mike tries the glasses on.

MIKE (CONT'D): And it's totally dark, which means it works. But I, you know, I just have one more important question: do I look cool?

Eleven laughs.

MIKE (CONT'D): I feel like I look really cool. Are you giggling?

Eleven giggles.

MIKE (CONT'D): You're giggling because I look awesome. I can't see it, but I know you're smiling because I know I just look so good. Right?

ELEVEN: Mike.

MIKE: Yeah?

Mike takes the pizza glasses off. Eleven holds his hands across the table.

ELEVEN: I...missed you.

Mike nods.

MIKE: Yeah. Yeah, I missed you too. You know, the last few days, I...I've had time to think about the last talk we had. You know, before the cops and...the whole world went to shit and everything? I...I guess I just...I dunno. I guess I just wanted to say that-

Argyle drops a pizza tray down on the table.

ARGYLE: Surf's up, Romeo.

Mike makes a face.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): Oh, uh, too much flavour awesomeness can't overpower your battery, can it?

Eleven shakes her head.

MIKE: Dude, this is pineapple.

ARGYLE: Try before you deny.

Eleven takes a bite of her slice. She thinks about it, then nods.

ELEVEN: Good.

ARGYLE: Hmm?

MIKE: It's good? What do you mean?

ELEVEN: Really good.

MIKE: What? That's insane. That's blasphemous. Putting fruit on pizza?

Eleven picks up Mike's slice and moves it towards his mouth. Argyle stands up and holds around Mike's neck, keeping him still while Eleven tries to feed him.

ELEVEN: Did you try it?

MIKE: No, I didn't try it.

ARGYLE: Try before you deny.

MIKE: No, I-

ELEVEN: Try before you deny!

MIKE: Stop! Enough! I'm not a dog!

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Will watches the trio's interaction as Jonathan pours more salt into the freezer.

MIKE (CONT'D): No, I'm not a baby! Thank you!

ELEVEN: Open!

ARGYLE: Try it.

ELEVEN: Try before you deny!

MIKE: No! No! Stop it!

Will turns around and slowly stirs the water with a pizza paddle. Jonathan looks into the seating area.

MIKE (CONT'D): Okay! Okay!

Jonathan finishes the bag of salt and tosses it onto the counter. He grabs a pizza paddle and starts stirring the water.

MIKE (CONT'D): No, you're right. It's good.

JONATHAN: Do you remember that time you told me you had a Lego stuck up your nose?

WILL: What?

JONATHAN: Yeah. Like, it was like a...it was like a construction guy. You'd call him Larry. Oh, come on! You don't remember? He had, like, the viz jacket and removable hat?

WILL: Yeah. Vaguely.

JONATHAN: Well, I remember it like it was yesterday. Man, I was...I was freaked. Cause...Cause this Larry...I mean, Larry was way, way up there. I don't even know how you got him that far up. I had to do surgery. I...I had to get tweezers to pull him out.

WILL: Bull.

JONATHAN: No. No, no, I swear on my life.

Jonathan sighs.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): I don't know, I just...I feel like you used to come to me more for help. Or to just...talk, you know? Cause, like, you don't do that anymore. Not like before. A lot of that is probably my fault. This last year...I know I've been distant.

WILL: Or stoned.

JONATHAN: Or stoned. Yeah. But that has nothing to do with you. And that's me dealing with my own shit. Hiding from my own problems. The truth is, I miss talking to you. I, like, really miss it. And I think, right now, we need to talk more than ever. Because things are getting just complicated. A lot more complicated than Legos up the nose, you know? I just...I don't want you to forget that I'm here. And I'll always be here. No matter what. Because you're my brother. And I love you. And there is nothing in this world, okay, absolutely nothing, that will ever change that. You got that?

Will nods, teary.

WILL: (shaky) Yeah. And I'm always here for you too.

JONATHAN: I know.

Jonathan drops the pizza paddle.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): I know you are. Come here.

Jonathan pulls Will into a hug. Will cries into his shoulder. Jonathan pulls away, holding Will by the shoulders.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): It's gonna be okay. Yeah?

WILL: Yeah.

Will sighs. Jonathan looks at the freezer.

JONATHAN: I think it's ready.

WILL: All right.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Jonathan and Will walk out of the kitchen. Eleven, Mike, and Argyle look at them.

JONATHAN: It's time.

Eleven nods. She takes a deep breath.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Eleven sits on an upturned bucket as she takes her shoes and socks off. Jonathan puts a radio on the counter, turning it to static.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Eleven stands in the freezer, the boys standing on either side. Eleven takes the pizza glasses from Will and puts them atop her head, taking a deep breath before sinking to her knees. The boys kneel beside the freezer. Eleven puts the pizza glasses over her eyes and slowly leans backwards, sinking into the water and floating on her back. The lights start to flicker.

ARGYLE: Wild.

INT./EXT. VOID

Max and Lucas walk through, the blue lantern lighting their way as they use it to track Vecna. Eleven watches them.

ELEVEN: I found them.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

ELEVEN (CONT'D): They're carrying a light. A blue light.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Max and Lucas use the pulsing lantern to track Vecna. They reach Henry's spider crate, and the lantern grows brightly. Max looks at Lucas.

INT./EXT. VOID

Eleven stares at Max.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

The lantern stops glowing. Max looks confused, looking at Lucas before looking back at the lantern.

MAX: What are you waiting for, asshole?

INT./EXT. VOID

MAX (CONT'D): Hmm? I'm right here. I'm right here!

MIKE (O.S.): Okay, El, what's going on?

ELEVEN: It's not working.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

WILL: What? What's not working?

ELEVEN: Max's plan.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

MAX: I know you can hear me. I know you can read my thoughts. Even the worst ones. Maybe mostly the worst ones.

Max sets the lantern down on a crate in front of her. She takes her headphones and Walkman off, setting them on the other crate, before she sits in front of the lantern.

MAX (CONT'D): I thought about what you said. About how I wanted my brother to die. I thought that you were just trying to upset me. To anger me. But you weren't, were you? You were just telling the truth.

Lucas watches Max, looking like he wants to interject but knowing he can't.

MAX (CONT'D): Billy, he made my life living hell. Every chance he got. So, sometimes...when I would lie in bed at night, I would...I would pray...

Max sniffs.

MAX (CONT'D): I would pray that something would happen to him. Something awful. I knew that he drove too fast, so I would imagine him crashing. Dying in that stupid car. I just...I wanted him out of my life. Forever. I wanted him to disappear.

INT./EXT. VOID

Eleven watches Max. She looks upset.

MAX (CONT'D): The day that he died...I think that's why I just stood there. Watched. Not because I was scared or...weak. But because...I didn't know if he deserved to be saved.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

A tear rolls down Max's cheek.

MAX (CONT'D): And I've tried to forgive myself. I've tried, but...I can't. I can't.

Max sniffs.

MAX (CONT'D): So now...now, when I lie in bed at night...I pray that something will happen to me. That something terrible will happen to me. So that's why I'm here. Because...I just want you to take me away. And I want you...to make me disappear.

LUCAS: Is that all true?

Max looks at Lucas. He's not facing her.

LUCAS (CONT'D): You wanted Billy to die.

MAX: Why are you talking?

Lucas looks at Max.

LUCAS: You ever have thoughts like that about me?

MAX: What?

Max stands up.

MAX (CONT'D): No, Lucas, never.

LUCAS: Normal people don't fantasise about killing other people, Max. You realise that, right?

MAX: Lucas, please.

LUCAS: I thought you were getting better. But you're not, are you? You are sick.

MAX: Lucas, you don't mean that.

Max starts slowly backing away as Lucas slowly walks towards her.

LUCAS: Maybe it is good he takes you. Maybe it's for the best. In fact...I'm glad it's going to be you. (distorted) You will be the chosen one. The fourth. The final sacrifice.

Lucas' eyes grow cloudy.

LUCAS and VECNA (OVERLAPPED): It's going to be you that breaks the world.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Lucas leans in front of Max. She sits completely still, her eyelids fluttering.

LUCAS: Max? Can you hear me?

Lucas waves his hand in front of Max's face.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Max!

INT./EXT. VOID

Lucas waves his hand in front of Max's face.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Max!

ELEVEN: He has her.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Jonathan, Will, and Mike look at each other, worried.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Lucas' eyes are cloudy.

LUCAS and VECNA (OVERLAPPED): Max. Where are you going? Don't be scared.

MAX: Stay away from me.

LUCAS and VECNA (OVERLAPPED): Max, I thought you said you were ready. Ready to disappear!

MAX: I said, stay away!

Max grabs a bottle and smashes it over Lucas' head. He grunts, holding his head. Max runs away. When he turns around, Vecna has replaced Lucas.

INT./EXT. VOID

Eleven kneels in front of Max, holding her hand. Max pants.

ELEVEN: Max. It's okay. I'm coming. I'm coming. Just hold on a little longer.

Eleven turns beside Max, holding her arm. She closes her eyes and takes deep breaths.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

The lights flicker more intensely.

FLASHBACK – EXT. ROANE COUNTY CEMETERY – BILLY'S GRAVE – DAY

Max sits in front of Billy's grave.

MAX: I dunno if you can hear this, but I'm sorry. I'm so, so sorry, Billy.

SUSAN (O.S.): Max, sweetie.

Flashback to #404. The Mayfield trailer lounge room. Max lays letters down on the table.

MAX (O.S.): Mum?

FLASHBACK – EXT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – BACKYARD – DAY

Susan hugs Max.

SUSAN: It's gonna be okay, baby.

INT./EXT. VOID

The Void starts to fill in with a memory.

MAX (O.S.): Ready?

FLASHBACK – INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Max and Lucas sing to tease Dustin as they pack up boxes.

MAX and LUCAS (IN UNISON): (singing) Turn around...look at what you see...

Flashback to #303. Eleven's room in Hopper's cabin. Max dances around the room.

Flashback to #302. Starcourt Mall. Max and Eleven walk through the mall, grinning with their arms interlocked.

FLASHBACK – EXT. HARGROVE HOUSE – DAY

Eleven walks up to Max with her skateboard.

ELEVEN: Hi.

Flashback to #301. A cinema in Star Cinemas. Max and Lucas smile.

Flashback to #209. Max's room in the Hargrove house. Susan helps Max get ready for the Snow Ball. Billy walks past her room and stands in the doorway, looking at her. Max glares at him, and he walks away.

KIDS (O.S.): Trick or treat!

FLASHBACK – EXT. LOCH NORA – NIGHT

Mike, Will, Lucas, and Dustin walk through Loch Nora. Someone jumps out wearing a Michael Myers mask. The boys jump back, screaming. Max pulls the mask off, grinning.

MAX: You should have seen the look on your faces.

Flashback to #202. Loch Nora. Max walks with Lucas and Dustin as they continue trick-or-treating.

Flashback to #201. Palace Arcade. Max plays Dig Dug, concentrating.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

The lights flicker.

INT./EXT. VOID

The Void starts to fill in with a memory.

FLASHBACK – INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

Mr. Clarke introduces Max to the class.

MR. CLARKE: Maxine.

Flashback to #201. The Hawkins School car park. Max gets out of Billy's car.

INT./EXT. VOID

The Void fills in with a memory. Eleven opens her eyes. She's in a California skatepark.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE: What's happening now?

ELEVEN: I think I am in a memory. A Max memory.

EXT. CALIFORNIA SKATE PARK – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max walks towards the skatepark, stopping at the edge as she looks around. Many people skate around, but Max is nowhere to be seen.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

WILL: Do you see her? Do you see Max?

ELEVEN: No. But she's here.

EXT. CALIFORNIA SKATE PARK – MAX’S MINDSCAPE

ELEVEN (CONT’D): She has to be here.

Eleven walks into the skatepark, looking around.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Lucas flashes his torch through the window.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

Erica sees Lucas’ flashing torch and flashes hers back in response.

ERICA: Okay, she’s in. Initiate phase three.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

ROBIN: She’s in. Move on to phase three.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin and Eddie stand on top of the trailer. A small tower of amps sits between them.

DUSTIN: Copy that. Initiating phase three.

Dustin pulls on an extension cord and plugs the amps in.

DUSTIN (CONT’D): Let’s hope they hear this.

Dustin turns the volume up, then nods at Eddie.

EDDIE: Chrissy, this is for you.

Eddie starts playing Master of Puppets by Metallica.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie’s playing can be faintly heard. The Demobats screech and take off, flying in his direction.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

The Demobats fly away from the house.

NANCY: Okay, it’s working. Let’s go.

Robin, Nancy, and Steve leave their hiding place under the rocket ship and head towards the house.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – UPSIDE DOWN

Robin, Nancy, and Steve walk towards the house.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max runs down the stairs. She opens the front door, only to find it boarded up.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar. Both he and Dustin bang their heads.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

VECNA: Where are you going, Maxine?

Max turns to see Vecna at the top of the stairs. She runs into the sitting room.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Jason drives along, Andy in the passenger seat.

INT. JASON'S CAR

ANDY: You see her?

JASON: Yeah. I see her.

Jason steps on the accelerator.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

Erica hears the screech of tires and looks up to see Jason's car racing down the street. Her eyes widen. Jason's car pulls up at the edge of the park.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

Erica slides down the slide and takes off running. Andy chases after her.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – DINING ROOM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max runs into the room, heading for the back door. She pulls it open, only to find it boarded up. She tries pulling on the boards.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin uses his binoculars to see if the Demobats are coming.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – FOYER – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max tries the back door, only to find it boarded up as well. She closes it and runs to keep looking.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX’S MINDSCAPE

Max tries a door. She opens it to find the sauna door from the Hawkins Community Pool’s weight room. The door is chained shut. Billy bangs on the window.

BILLY: Max! Let me out of here!

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

Erica runs as fast as she can. Andy chases her. He tackles her, pulling her to the ground.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX’S MINDSCAPE

Billy bangs on the sauna door.

BILLY (CONT’D): Max! Open the door!

Max turns, only to see another boarded up door.

BILLY (CONT’D): Open the door!

Billy smashes his arm through the window.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

Erica struggles against Andy as he pins her down.

ERICA: Get off!

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar. Dustin stands up, using his binoculars to see if the Demobats are coming. They’re suddenly lit up by a flash of red lightning, the screeching horde headed towards them.

DUSTIN: Eddie!

Eddie looks at Dustin.

DUSTIN (CONT’D): We gotta lock down in T-minus 30 seconds!

Eddie nods.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX’S MINDSCAPE

Billy yells as he throws himself against the sauna door. Max stands back, trying to calm her breathing.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

The Demobats swarm towards the trailer. Dustin watches them with his binoculars.

DUSTIN (CONT’D): T-minus 20!

Eddie nods.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX’S MINDSCAPE

Billy throws himself against the sauna door.

BILLY: Max! Let me out!

Max closes her eyes and takes deep breathes.

BILLY (CONT’D): Max! Max!

Flashback to #201. A Hawkins Middle classroom. Mr. Clarke introduces Max to the rest of the class.

Flashback to #203. A Hawkins Middle classroom. Max gives Dustin a thumbs up.

Flashback to #301. A cinema in Star Cinemas. Max and Lucas smile.

Flashback to #302. Outside the Hargrove house. Eleven walks up to Max, holding her skateboard.

Flashback to #209. Max’s room in the Hargrove house. Susan helps Max get ready for the Snow Ball.

Flashback to #209. The Hawkins Middle gym. Max and Lucas dance at the Snow Ball.

Max takes deep breaths as Billy yells.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

DUSTIN: T-minus ten!

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX’S MINDSCAPE

Max takes deep breaths.

Flashback to #209. The Hawkins Middle gym. Max and Lucas dance at the Snow Ball.

Billy throws himself against the sauna door.

BILLY: Max!

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX’S MINDSCAPE

Billy throws himself against the sauna door.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX’S MINDSCAPE

Max takes deep breaths as Billy throws himself against the sauna door.

Flashback to #209. The Hawkins Middle gym. Max and Lucas dance at the Snow Ball. Max kisses Lucas.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar. The Demobats get closer.

DUSTIN: Five!

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Billy throws himself against the sauna door, and the door flies off its hinges.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar. The Demobats get closer.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max takes deep breaths.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie plays on his guitar. The Demobats get closer.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): One!

Eddie finishes playing.

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max opens her eyes to find herself in the Hawkins Middle gym, which is set up for the Hawkins Middle Snow Ball of 1984. She looks around.

MAX: Holy shit.

Max chuckles, smiling.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie and Dustin book it as they climb down and head for the door, the Demobats flying towards them.

EDDIE: Move! Move! Move!

DUSTIN: Let's go! Eddie, come on!

EDDIE: Hurry! Go, go!

DUSTIN: Shit! Shit! Shit! Shit! Shit!

They reach the fenced off porch.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Hurry! Eddie, shut it!

Eddie closes and locks the porch door right as a Demobat flies towards him. It lands on the fence and screeches. Eddie stares at it.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Hurry! Come on!

Eddie runs into the trailer and closes the door behind him.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin and Eddie pant, catching their breath.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Dude! Most...

EDDIE: Oh my...

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Metal ever!

EDDIE: Oh my God.

They both start jumping up and down in excitement, yelling.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – LAB – NIGHT

Water and glass are littered on the floor, and the rubber curtain has been pulled down. Hopper climbs out as quietly as he can, flamethrower on his back. He helps Joyce climb out, and then Murray climbs out. They see the large container that housed part of the Mind Flayer and walk towards it. Large holes in both panes of glass have appeared. There's noises in the distance, making the trio turn.

MURRAY: Oh dear God.

The trio sees that the containers that houses the growing Demogorgons are now smashed and empty.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT CONTROL ROOM – NIGHT

Hopper lights the flamethrower as he leads Joyce and Murray down the stairs from the lab to the Demogorgon pit control room. It's carnage inside, with dead bodies and scattered papers all around the room. Blood is splattered on things. Someone breathes shakily, and they keep moving to find the warden sitting against a cabinet. His face is slashed badly, and he gasps for breath. Murray kneels in front of him.

MURRAY: (in Russian) What happened here?

The warden breathes shakily as he responds. Murray translates.

MURRAY (CONT'D): The monster got in. The guards, they tried to stop it. The gunfire shattered the tanks. The others came alive.

JOYCE: The particles. Ask him about the particles.

Murray translates for the warden. He then translates the warden's response.

MURRAY: He says they call it 'the shadow'. The shadow went into them.

HOPPER: Into who?

Murray translates for the warden. The warden gasps. Murray repeats himself. The light leaves the warden's eyes, and his head lolls to the side as he dies. Murray hangs his head and sighs. There's a loud screeching, and the trio looks around. Hopper lights the flamethrower. Murray looks at the monitors to see the Demogorgon and Demodogs prowling the facility. Joyce looks.

MURRAY: I think this answers your question, Jim.

Murray and Joyce turn to look at Hopper.

MURRAY (CONT'D): The shadow is in them.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve, Nancy, and Robin walk up to the house.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – FOYER – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve opens the front door, and it swings open with a creak. Inside, vines slither all over.

STEVE: Oh, shit. That's not good.

Steve takes a deep breath and starts hopping into the empty spaces, moving towards the stairs. He almost loses his balance on one hop, then catches himself and continues.

ROBIN: Shit.

Robin grabs Nancy's hand.

NANCY: It's okay. You got this.

Robin starts hopping in the empty spaces Steve hopped in, following him towards the stairs. Nancy does the same.

EXT. CALIFORNIA SKATE PARK – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven walks through the skate park, looking for Max.

BULLY: Shouldn't you be playing with dolls or something?

Max turns to see a small redheaded girl sitting near the edge of the skatepark, bandaging her knee. It's Max, only younger than we know her.

YOUNG Max: Shouldn't you bag your face?

Young Max gives the bully a middle finger, and he scoffs and runs off.

ELEVEN: Max.

Young Max doesn't hear her, standing up and moving to the centre of the skatepark.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Max!

Young Max puts her skateboard down and skates away. Eleven watches her.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I found her.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

ELEVEN (CONT'D): But she's young. She can't see me. Can't hear me.

WILL: Do you see anything weird in this memory? Any sign of Vecna or...or the Mind Flayer?

ELEVEN: No, everything...

EXT. CALIFORNIA SKATE PARK – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Is normal.

Eleven looks around. She catches sight of a small table atop the bridge, decorated in tinsel. Every Breath You Take by The Police plays from it, though distorted.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): There is something...

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

ELEVEN (CONT'D): That doesn't fit.

EXT. CALIFORNIA SKATE PARK – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I think it is...

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Another memory.

ARGYLE: A memory within a memory?

EXT. CALIFORNIA SKATE PARK – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

THE POLICE (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Every breath you take...

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max sits at a table, looking nervous. Every Breath You Take by The Police plays on the speakers.

THE POLICE (CONT'D)(ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Every move you make...every bond you break...every step you take...I'll be watching you...

Max checks her watch.

THE POLICE (CONT'D)(ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Every single...

A balloon on the table behind Max suddenly bursts, splattering blood onto the table. Max gasps and jumps up, moving away. Another balloon bursts, splattering blood on the table. Soon all the balloons start to burst, splattering blood everywhere. The vinyl warps, and Dream A Little Dream Of Me by Ella Fitzgerald starts playing.

ELLA FITZGERALD (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) ...do love you...Dream a little dream of me...

EXT. CALIFORNIA SKATE PARK – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven walks towards the DJ table on the bridge. Dream A Little Dream Of Me by Ella Fitzgerald plays.

ELLA FITZGERALD (CONT'D)(ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Say nighty-night and kiss me...just hold me tight and tell me you'll miss me...

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

The Snow Ball '84 sign behind the DJ table turns red.

ELLA FITZGERALD (CONT'D)(ON SPEAKERS): (singing) While I'm alone and blue as can be...dream a little dream of me...

Max looks around as the tinsel slowly turns red, with some strips falling off.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Stars fading but I linger on, dear...

ELLA FITZGERALD (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Oh, how I do linger on...

LOUIS ARMSTRONG (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Still craving your kiss...

The flowers on all the table centrepieces wilt.

ELLA FITZGERALD (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) How you crave my kiss...

LOUIS ARMSTRONG (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Now I'm longing...

There's a crackling sound as the area slowly turns blue, the tinsel withering and falling as particles. Thunder cracks.

EXT. CALIFORNIA SKATE PARK – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Thunder cracks. Eleven turns.

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max turns to see red lightning flashing in the sky through the windows.

EXT. CALIFORNIA SKATE PARK – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven sees a dark storm cloud looming in the distance, red lightning flashing from it.

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max looks nervous.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Max pants in her trance. Lucas kneels in front of her.

LUCAS: Oh shit.

Lucas runs to the window and starts flashing his torch.

LUCAS (CONT'D): What the hell is taking so long?

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

Erica struggles against Andy.

ERICA: Let me go, you meathead!

ANDY: You shut your mouth or I'll break your arms. Hear me, you little shit?

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Lucas flashes his torch through the window. There's the sound of floorboards creaking, and he slowly turns around.

LUCAS: Shit.

Jason walks into the attic, eyes trained on Max.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Jason? You can't be here right now, man.

JASON: The hell have you done?

Lucas slowly walks towards Max as Jason stares at her.

LUCAS: Jason. You need to leave.

JASON: Is this what you did to Chrissy?

Jason kneels beside Max.

LUCAS: Just listen, Jason.

JASON: Hey.

LUCAS: You need to go, man.

JASON: Hi. Can...can you hear me?

LUCAS: Jason, don't touch her. I'm not messing around.

Jason waves his hand in front of Max's face.

JASON: Hey. Can you hear me?

Lucas kneels in front of Max and Jason.

LUCAS: Jason, please, just-

Jason pulls his gun out, standing up as he aims it at Lucas. Lucas jumps back, holding his hands up.

JASON: Hey, back up! Back up! Not another step.

LUCAS: Wa...wait. We...we don't have to do this. We don't have to do this, man.

JASON: Yeah, I hope you're right.

LUCAS: Wait.

JASON: Is there anyone else in the house?

LUCAS: No. No.

JASON: Turn around.

LUCAS: What?

JASON: Turn around!

LUCAS: Okay, okay. Relax, relax.

Lucas turns around.

JASON: And put down your flashlight.

LUCAS: It's okay. Okay.

Lucas puts his torch on the ground.

JASON: And empty your pockets. Empty your pockets!

LUCAS: Okay. Okay. Okay.

Lucas pulls everything out of his pockets.

JASON: Okay. Now, this is what's gonna happen. I'm gonna back away to the top of the stairs there. Then I'll watch as you wake her up from whatever the hell this is.

LUCAS: I can't.

Lucas turns around.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Jason. If I wake her too soon, we all die.

JASON: No. You don't wake her up right now, you die, Sinclair.

Jason cocks the gun.

JASON (CONT'D): Just you.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

Hopper, Joyce, and Murray walk into the Demogorgon pit, looking around.

HOPPER: You shut off this fence, right?

JOYCE: Yeah.

HOPPER: Good. So you can turn it back on again.

Murray chuckles.

MURRAY: Jim, you wanna clue us in on what you're thinking here, or are we just supposed to read your mind?

HOPPER: This pit was designed to trap monsters. We get em in here, we lock it up, we rain fire from above, and we hope to hell that gives El and the kids the upper hand.

MURRAY: Okay. I'm with ya. Except the whole, uh...

Murray chuckles.

MURRAY (CONT'D): 'Getting them in here' part.

HOPPER: It's a hive mind. You draw one, you draw em all.

Hopper slides the flamethrower off and gives it to Murray, taking his gun.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You're the grill master.

MURRAY: Okay.

Hopper turns to Joyce.

HOPPER: And you, you're the jailer. You get that fence turned on. And once they're all in here, lock that door behind em.

JOYCE: What about you?

HOPPER: I'm the bait.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT CONTROL ROOM – NIGHT

Joyce and Hopper look at the monitors. Hopper points at one of them.

HOPPER (CONT'D): That one there. See him? In the laundry room? It's not far from here. He's all alone. He's our target.

FLASHBACK

FLASHBACK – INT. HAWKINS LAB – FOYER – NIGHT

A Demodog bites into Bob's chest. Hopper pulls Joyce towards the doors.

JOYCE: No!

HOPPER: Let's go!

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT CONTROL ROOM – NIGHT

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hey. I'm gonna die someday. But not today. I still got a date to make, remember?

JOYCE: I don't know, Hop.

HOPPER: This time, it's gonna be different.

JOYCE: It better be. I am not having another funeral.

Hopper gently touches Joyce's cheek. They kiss. Hopper pulls away and walks out of the room, leaving Joyce alone.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin and Eddie stand back to back, shields and spears ready. Demobats screech outside, throwing themselves against the trailer. Both boys breathe heavily, nervous. The noises suddenly stop.

DUSTIN: Hey, dipshits! Give up that easy, huh?

EDDIE: Shh! Is that really necessary?

There's a clattering, then the sounds of small footsteps. Both boys stare at the roof.

EDDIE (CONT'D): They're on the roof.

DUSTIN: Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit.

The sounds of footsteps moves down the trailer, towards Eddie's room. They follow it, spears trained at the ceiling. They see bits of Demobats passing over the vent in the kitchen.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): They can't get in through there, can they?

A Demobat suddenly punches the vent in, screeching. The boys jump. They yell, moving towards it and stabbing it with their spears.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Die! Die!

More Demobats try to get in through the vent. The boys continue stabbing them.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Die! Die! Die!

INT. CREEL HOUSE – FOYER – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve, Robin, and Nancy slowly make their way up the stairs, careful to avoid the vines.

NANCY: Ugh.

Steve reaches the top floor, seeing the door to the attic wide open. He turns and helps Robin and Nancy up the stairs.

STEVE: Easy.

Steve grabs Nancy's gun from her bag, then pulls his axe out of his own bag. Robin puts some Molotovs in her pant pockets. They move towards the attic, and the ground suddenly shakes. They grab onto each other, both to try and keep their balance and to avoid stepping on the vines. The shaking stops, and they pull away from each other, panting. A vine suddenly snakes around Robin's foot, and she yells as she's pulled towards the wall. More vines join, wrapping around her body and pinning her against the wall.

ROBIN: Steve! Nancy!

Nancy runs forward and starts hitting the vines with the butt of her gun. Steve joins in, trying to slice through the vines with his axe. A vine grabs the axe, pulling it and Steve towards the other wall. Steve wrestles with the axe before a vine wraps around his neck, turning him around and pulling him up the wall. Nancy turns and looks at him with wide eyes. A vine grabs her ankle, pulling her off balance with a yell. It tries to pull her towards the wall, but she struggles against it. Another vine joins, grabbing her around the waist and pulling her to the wall, pinning her in place. A vine wraps around her neck. Vines grab Steve's hands and pull them away from the vine around his neck. A vine wraps around Robin's neck. Soon they're all gasping for breath, choking as the vines around their necks grow tighter.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – NIGHT

The lights flicker. Blood is spattered on the walls. Hopper slowly walks down the hallway, stepping over a dead body.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT CONTROL ROOM – NIGHT

Joyce watches Hopper on the monitors, breathing shakily.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Hopper walks down the hallway. He comes across a closed door, and a rhythmic thumping comes from behind it. He pushes the door open with the barrel of the gun, and it swings open silently.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – LAUNDRY ROOM – NIGHT

There's blood and dead bodies everywhere, the thumping coming from a turning dryer. Hopper keeps looking into the room, and he sees a Demodog feasting on a dead man. Hopper whistles. The Demodog looks at him, then screeches. It runs at the door, and Hopper slams it shut.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Hopper books it down the hallway as the Demodog throws itself against the door. The Demodog busts down the door and chases after Hopper.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin and Eddie yell as they stab at the Demobats. Eddie stops, looking at a chair.

DUSTIN: Eddie! I need you!

Eddie grabs the chair.

EDDIE: Get out of the way! Get out of the way!

Dustin moves, and Eddie puts the chair below the vent. He yells, then shoves his shield against the vent. The Demobats chatter. Dustin pants, and Eddie breathes heavily. He turns to look at Dustin.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Holy shit. Holy shit.

DUSTIN: Nice.

EDDIE: Thanks.

They high five. Dustin pants, then looks back at Eddie.

DUSTIN: Are there any other vents?

Eddie's eyes widen.

EDDIE: Oh, shit.

Eddie jumps down from the chair, grabbing his spear and running towards his room.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Shit!

DUSTIN: Shit, shit, shit, shit.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – EDDIE'S ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

The boys reach Eddie's room right as the Demobats burst in through a floor vent and fill the room.

EDDIE: Shit!

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie slams the door shut, and he and Dustin back away. The Demobats start trying to break through the door.

DUSTIN: Shit!

Eddie picks up Dustin's discarded shield, holding it up. The door starts splintering.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): That's not gonna hold!

EDDIE: Let's go! Let's go!

Dustin grunts as he starts climbing the sheets.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Come on! Quickly!

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Dustin climbs through the Gate and yells as he falls onto the mattress.

DUSTIN: Ah!

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

The door splinters even more. Eddie moves to start climbing.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie, come on!

Eddie throws his shield and spear aside, grabbing onto the sheets and beginning to climb. The door splinters even more. He stops climbing, looking at it.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie, come on! Let's go!

Eddie looks up at Dustin.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie, you're so close! Eddie! Let's go!

Eddie looks back at his door. He drops from the sheets. He looks up at Dustin. Dustin seems to realise what he's thinking.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie.

Eddie turns away from Dustin, thinking about it. Then he lets go of the sheets and moves to grab his spear.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie! What are you doing? Eddie, no!

Eddie yells as he slices through the sheets.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Dustin catches the sheets as they fall. He looks back through the Gate.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie!

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie moves the mattress out from under the Gate.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): No, Eddie, stop! Eddie, stop! Stop! Stop!

Eddie slings his spear over his back and picks up the shield.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie, what are you doing?

Eddie looks up at Dustin.

EDDIE: I'm buying more time.

DUSTIN: No! Eddie, please!

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie bursts out of the trailer. The Demobats screech at him. He grabs a bike and starts riding away as fast as he can. The Demobats fly after him.

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max carries chairs towards the doors, trying to make a barricade.

ELLA FITZGERALD (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Stars shining bright above you...Night breezes seem to whisper...

Max throws a chair onto the barricade and turns around, walking towards a table.

ELLA FITZGERALD (CONT'D)(ON SPEAKERS): (singing) I love you...Birds singing in the sycamore trees...

Max grabs another chair and turns to walk back to the doors, only to find the barricade gone and the doors replaced with the Creel front door. She stops, staring at it. Her breathing quickens.

ELLA FITZGERALD (CONT'D)(ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Dream of me...

The door creaks open.

VECNA (O.S.): You can't hide from me, Max.

Max looks like she wants to run and hide. A clock starts ticking. Max closes her eyes, taking deep breaths.

Flashback to #303. Eleven's room in Hopper's cabin. Max and Eleven play spin the bottle.

Flashback to #201. A Hawkins Middle classroom. Mr. Clarke introduces Max to the rest of the class.

Flashback to #203. A Hawkins Middle classroom. Max gives Dustin a thumbs up.

Flashback to #301. A cinema in Star Cinemas. Max and Lucas smile.

Flashback to #302. Outside the Hargrove house. Eleven walks up to Max, holding her skateboard.

Flashback to #303. Eleven's room in Hopper's cabin. Max and Eleven play spin the bottle.

Flashback to #301. A cinema in Star Cinemas. Max and Lucas smile.

Flashback to #302. Outside the Hargrove house. Eleven walks up to Max, holding her skateboard.

Flashback to #209. Max's room in the Hargrove house. Susan helps Max get ready for the Snow Ball.

Flashback to #303. Eleven's room in Hopper's cabin. Max dances around the room.

Flashback to #303. Eleven's room in Hopper's cabin. Max and Eleven play spin the bottle.

Flashback to #303. Eleven's room in Hopper's cabin. Max dances around the room.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): You think I don't see what you're doing?

FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – NIGHT

Max and Eleven sit on her bed.

MAX: Is Mike a good kisser?

The girls laugh.

Vecna pushes through Max's good memories to show her what's happening while she's in a trance.

VECNA (O.S.): You think I don't see everything?

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Jason cocks his gun at Lucas.

LUCAS: Please.

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

VECNA (O.S.): You thought you could trick me?

Flashback to #409. The Creel house in the Upside Down. Robin yells as vines pull her to the wall.

Flashback to #409. The Munson trailer in the Upside Down. Dustin and Eddie yell at the Demobats.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): You thought your friends...

Flashback to #409. The Kamchatka laundry room. The Demodog screeches at Hopper.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): Could stop me?

Flashback to #409. A Kamchatka hallway. Hopper runs down the hallway. The Demodog busts down the door and chases after him.

Flashback to #409. The Creel house in the Upside Down. Nancy and Steve try to free Robin from the vines.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): I see them.

Flashback to #409. Eddie's room in the Upside Down. Demobats burst through the floor vent. Eddie and Dustin jump back.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): I see your friends.

Flashback to #409. The Creel house in the Upside Down. A vine grabs Nancy's ankle and pulls her off balance.

Flashback to #409. The Creel house in the Upside Down. Vines pull Steve's hands away from his neck.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): Just as clearly...

Flashback to #409. Eddie's room in the Upside Down. Eddie shuts the door.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): As I...

FLASHBACK – INT. MUNSON TRAILER – NIGHT

Dustin watches Eddie through the Gate.

DUSTIN: Stop!

VECNA (O.S.): See you.

Flashback to #409. Eddie bikes away from the trailer as fast as he can. The Demobats fly after him.

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max shakes her head.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): I can feel them...

Flashback to #409. The Creel house in the Upside Down. Steve, Robin, and Nancy gasp for breath as the vines around their necks tighten.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): Dying.

Flashback to #409. The Creel house in the Upside Down. Steve, Robin, and Nancy gasp for breath as the vines around their necks tighten.

A clock chimes. Max opens her eyes.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): It's time, Max.

Max backs away and turns around, looking around the gym. Dream A Little Dream Of Me by Ella Fitzgerald plays, though heavily distorted.

ELLA FITZGERALD (ON SPEAKERS): (singing, distorted) Dream a little dream of me...say nighty-night...

Max starts backing away, and Vecna is behind her.

VECNA: It's time.

Max turns around to find Vecna behind her. He thrusts his hand out, and she yells as she goes flying across the gym, passing through a draping of tinsel and landing against the far wall. She yells in pain as she's pinned in place, limbs stretched out beside her. Vecna walks towards her.

LUCAS (O.S.): We call him Vecna.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

LUCAS (CONT'D): He lives in another dimension. That's why you can't see him.

JASON: And Eddie Munson and his...his Hellfire acolytes, what, you all summoned this Vecna?

LUCAS: No, no, you're not listening. Just listen. There...there's no cult. There never was.

JASON: You expect me to believe that?

LUCAS: It's the truth.

JASON: Then why was Chrissy at Eddie's trailer?

LUCAS: She was buying drugs.

JASON: Liar!

Jason cocks the gun.

LUCAS: Okay.

Lucas pants.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Okay. Chrissy...she was seeing things. Terrible things. Things Vecna forced her to see. She was scared.

JASON: No.

LUCAS: She just needed help.

JASON: See, that's how I know you're lying. If Chrissy was scared, if...if Chrissy wanted help, she would've come to me! Not Eddie! Not that freak! Never!

LUCAS: You're wrong about Eddie.

JASON: No. But I was wrong about you. I never should've let you in the door.

LUCAS: And I never should have knocked.

Lucas slowly lowers his hands.

LUCAS (CONT'D): I thought I wanted to be like you. Popular. Normal. But it turns out, normal's just a raging psychopath.

JASON: You have five seconds to wake her up. Four. Three.

Lucas yells and runs at Jason, ducking when he fires. He tackles Jason, pushing him against a pole. The gun goes off again as Jason loses grip on it.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

Andy hears the gunshot and turns to look at the house. Erica wrestles out of his grip and turns over. Andy turns back to her.

ANDY: Hey! Hey!

Erica kicks Andy in the crotch, making him groan and double over. Erica runs and grabs her torch.

ERICA: Crit hit!

Erica hits Andy in the face with the torch.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Jason punches Lucas multiple times before throwing him over a crate. Max's Walkman is knocked off, and Jason steps on it as he walks towards Lucas.

LUCAS: No! No!

Jason hits Lucas over and over. Lucas goes to hit him, but Jason grabs him around the waist and tackles him to the ground. They run at each other, fighting.

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max whimpers as Vecna walks through the tinsel. He walks up to her, standing in front of her. She whimpers.

VECNA: You are brave, Maxine. Much braver than your brother. But in the end...you are weak and fragile, just like him. Like all the rest of them. And you will break.

Vecna raises his hand over Max's face. His eyes roll into the back of his head. Just as he's about to plunge his nails into Max's face, he's thrown backwards. He stops midair in the middle of the gym, panting. Max falls to the ground. She looks up to see Eleven walking into the gym, arm outstretched at Vecna. She moves her hand, slowly turning him around to face her. He looks at her and growls.

VECNA (CONT'D): You.

ELEVEN: Hi.

Eleven throws her hand to the side. Vecna goes flying into the bleachers, smashing through the wood with a grunt.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie bikes away from the trailer as fast as he can. The Demobats fly after him.

EDDIE: Come get me, you sons of bitches!

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Dustin grunts as he pushes the mattress aside. He grabs a chair, putting it under the Gate and stepping back. He looks at the Gate, hyping himself up.

DUSTIN: Screw it.

Dustin yells, running for the chair and using it as a boost to grab onto the Gate.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie bikes away from the trailer as fast as he can. The Demobats fly after him.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Dustin strains as he pulls himself through the Gate.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie bikes away from the trailer as fast as he can. The Demobats fly after him. One knocks him over, and he lands on the ground with a grunt. He rolls over a few times.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin yells as he sense of gravity changes, and he falls to the ground. He lands on his leg with a sickening crack, rolling onto his side and screaming in pain.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie pushes himself up and starts running. After a few metres, he stops.

EDDIE (O.S.): I didn't know what to do, so I...I...

FLASHBACK – INT. LIPTON HOUSE – BOATHOUSE – NIGHT

Dustin, Robin, Steve, and Max sit in front of the traumatised Eddie.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I ran away.

EDDIE (CONT'D)(O.S.): I just ran, and I left her there.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie slowly turns around to face the bats.

EDDIE (CONT'D)(O.S.): I mean, look at us.

FLASHBACK – EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

EDDIE (CONT'D): We are not heroes.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie turns to face the Demobats with a determined look on his face. He pulls his spear and shield off his back, holding them ready. He takes deep breaths, staring at the circling horde. One of them spots him and stops circling, flying towards him. The others take its lead. Eddie yells as the Demobats fly towards him, hitting his shield.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Hopper books it down the hallway, the Demodog a few metres behind.

HOPPER: Shit!

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT CONTROL ROOM – NIGHT

Joyce watches Hopper and the Demodog on the monitors. She breathes shakily, then catches sight of the stick tasers on the wall.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – FRONT PARK – NIGHT

Erica runs towards the Creel house as fast as she can.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Jason and Lucas yell as they fight each other. Jason throws Lucas into an armchair. Lucas retaliates by punching him in the stomach and then in the head. Jason stumbles backwards. He sees a vase sitting on a crate nearby, grabbing it before turning around and smashing it over Lucas' head. Lucas falls onto the floor with a grunt. Jason walks towards him. Lucas holds his hand out, panting.

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Max pushes herself up, and Eleven runs up to her.

ELEVEN: Max, are you okay?

Max looks confused to see Eleven. They hold each other's arms,

MAX: Huh?

ELEVEN: Are you okay?

MAX: Yeah.

Max feels Eleven's shaved head.

MAX (CONT'D): Are you...

Max squishes Eleven's cheek.

MAX (CONT'D): Are you real? Di...did I make you?

Eleven takes Max's hand and holds them between her own.

ELEVEN: I'm real.

MAX: How?

ELEVEN: I piggybacked from a pizza dough freezer.

MAX: What?

ELEVEN: Uh-

There's a clatter behind them. Max and Eleven walk through the tinsel, staring at the bleachers. Vecna pulls himself out of the bleachers, growling. He cracks his neck, then starts walking towards the middle of the gym.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Stay back.

Eleven walks towards Vecna. They stand facing each other.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): If you touch her again, I will kill you again.

VECNA: Is that what you did? Hmm? Did you kill me? I am so glad you are here, Eleven. This...is going to be beautiful.

Vecna raises his hands beside him, and splinters of wood rise into the air behind him.

VECNA (CONT'D): So beautiful.

The splinters all aim at Eleven.

VECNA (CONT'D): And it's all thanks to you.

Vecna thrusts his hands forward, and the splinters go flying towards Eleven. She thrusts her hand to the side and they deviate off course, spearing into the bleachers. Vecna thrusts his hand out, sending Eleven flying backwards into the DJ table. She's then pulled away and thrown onto another table.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Eleven jolts slightly in the water. The lights flicker intensely.

MIKE: She's fighting him.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin opens the door and hobbles down the stairs.

DUSTIN: Eddie!

Dustin looks around.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie!

Dustin starts hobbling away from the trailer, using his spear for support.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie!

Dustin rounds the side of the trailer and sees the horde of Demobats circling something in the distance, screeching.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie!

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

The horde of Demobats circle around Eddie, screeching. He looks around, waiting for them to attack. One of them flies towards him, and he hits it away with his shield. More start to fly at him, and he either ducks or hits them away.

EDDIE: Come on!

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – MAX'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven goes flying into a standing trellis, splintering it. She pants as Vecna walks towards her. Footsteps sound, and Vecna turns around to see Max running at him with a splinter in her hand. He moves his hand and she goes flying to the side with a yell, skidding along the ground and hitting a wall, knocking her unconscious. Eleven walks towards Vecna and thrusts her hand out, but he turns and thrusts his hand out at her. She gasps for breath as he uses his powers to constrict her throat.

He unfurls his hand, and she starts rising in the air. He moves his hand, bringing her towards him. She grunts.

VECNA: Before I kill you...I want you to watch.

Vecna thrusts his hand out, and Eleven goes flying backwards. The doors turn into a portal to his red mindscape, and she goes flying through.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven lands on the ground and rolls a few times, grunting. Vines wrap around her wrists and pull her along the floor towards the Creel front door. They pull her up the door, holding her in place with her feet a few centimetres from the floor. More vines wrap around her ankles, pinning her in place. She slowly opens her eyes and looks at the landscape around her. She whimpers when she sees Chrissy's body entangled in a viny stalagmite nearby. Vecna walks through the landscape, the unconscious Max draped over his shoulder. He sets her down on the ground, then watches as vines move to pull her to standing and pin her against a window.

ELEVEN: Papa is dead.

Vecna turns around to look at Eleven.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I know what he did to you.

Vecna slowly walks towards Eleven.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): You were different.

Eleven sobs.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Like me. And he hurt you. He made you...into this. He is the monster, Henry. Not you.

Eleven takes a shuddering breath.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Not you.

Vecna reaches Eleven and stands in front of her. She looks scared.

VECNA: You're right. You and I, we are different. And Papa did hurt me. But he was no monster. He was just a man. An ordinary, mediocre man. That is why he sought greatness in others. In you. And me.

A tear rolls down Eleven's cheek. Vecna catches it.

VECNA (CONT'D): Hmm. But in the end...he could not control us. He could not shape us. He could not change us. Do you not see, Eleven? He did not make me into this. You did.

Eleven's eyes widen.

Flashback to #407. The Rainbow Room. Eleven screams as she defeats One. One screams as he disintegrates.

FLASHBACK

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. EARLY UPSIDE DOWN

One screams as he turns over and over. Lightning strikes him, burning his clothes and charring his body.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): *At first, I believed you had sent me to my death. To purgatory.*

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

VECNA (CONT'D): *But I was wrong. I was somewhere new.*

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. EARLY UPSIDE DOWN

One walks down a large mountain. Other mountains are spread out below him, with others high in the sky without even a root touching the ground. Yellow clouds fill the sky and coat the ground, and yellow lightning flashes.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): *I became an explorer.*

There's a sound on a nearby mountain, and One looks across to see a Demogorgon climbing up it.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): *An explorer of a realm unspoiled by mankind.*

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

VECNA (CONT'D): *I saw so many things. And one day, I found the most extraordinary thing of all.*

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. EARLY UPSIDE DOWN

One walks up a mountain.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): *Something that would change everything.*

One stops at the top, staring at a looming cloud of moving dark particles.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): *I saw a means...*

FLSHBCK – INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – DAY

Henry sits in front of his spider crate, drawing.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): *To realise my potential. To transcend my human form.*

FLSHBCK – INT. CREEL HOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

Henry reaches into the floor vent and pulls out a black widow.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): *To become the predator...*

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. EARLY UPSIDE DOWN

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): *I was always born to be.*

One puts his hand out. The cloud starts to move.

FLSHBCK – INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – DAY

Henry sits in front of his spider crate, drawing.

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. EARLY UPSIDE DOWN

One uses his powers to make the cloud into something else. A head forms, then limbs stretch out and touch the ground. It's the Mind Flayer.

FLSHBCK – INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – DAY

Henry sits in front of his spider crate, drawing. He stops drawing and blows on the page.

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. EARLY UPSIDE DOWN

One pulls his hand down, the Mind Flayer created.

FLSHBCK – INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – DAY

Henry stares at his drawing. It's of the Mind Flayer.

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. EARLY UPSIDE DOWN

One stares at the Mind Flayer as it looms over him.

END FLASHBACK

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

ELEVEN: It was...it was you. Always you.

Vecna nods slightly.

VECNA: All I needed was someone to open the door. And you did that for me. Without even realising it. Didn't you?

Flashback to #106. The Void. Eleven touches the Demogorgon. It turns and screeches at her.

Flashback to #106. The Bath. Eleven screams, banging on the glass.

Flashback to #106. The Bath room. Cracks form on the walls. People scream and run around.

VECNA (CONT'D): And when you did realise, you chose to resist.

Flashback to #108. A Hawkins Middle classroom. Eleven defeating the Demogorgon.

Flashback to #209. The Gate. Eleven closes the Gate, pushing the Mind Flayer's tendril back in.

VECNA (CONT'D): So I sought a means to open my own doors. I sought...your power.

Flashback to #307. Hopper's cabin's lounge room. The Spider Monster grabs Eleven's leg.

FLASHBACK

FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – ELEVEN'S MINDSCAPE

Billy walks towards Eleven.

BILLY: All this time, we've been building it.

Flashback to #308. The Starcourt Mall food court. Eleven tries to use her powers to lift the car.

FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – ELEVEN'S MINDSCAPE

Billy walks towards Eleven.

BILLY (CONT'D): For you.

Flashback to #308. The Starcourt Mall food court. Eleven tries to use her powers to lift the car.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven shudders.

VECNA: So, don't you see? Once again, you have freed me.

ELEVEN: No. You don't have to do this. You can still stop this.

VECNA: It is over, Eleven. Your friends have lost.

Eleven sobs.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Jason pushes Lucas against a wall and punches him over and over again.

JASON: No!

Jason punches Lucas repeatedly.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie hits Demobats away. One of them whips its tail around his neck, and he falls to his knees as he tries to pull it away. Dustin hobbles towards him.

DUSTIN: Eddie!

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven sobs.

VECNA: There is nothing...nothing you can do to stop this now.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – NIGHT

The Demodog tackles Hopper, sending him to the ground. He rolls over as it stands on top of him, struggling to hold its mouth closed.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

More Demobats fly at Eddie, grabbing his wrists and ankles and pulling them out. He lays on his back, struggling against them. Demobats land beside him and start biting into his stomach. He screams.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

VECNA (CONT'D): Hawkins will burn and fall.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – HALLWAY – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve, Robin, and Nancy gasp for breath as the vines around their necks tighten.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): And the rest of this senseless, broken world. And I will be there.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – FOYER – NIGHT

Erica runs up the stairs.

ERICA: Lucas!

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Jason starts strangling Lucas.

VECNA (O.S.): I will be there to pick up the pieces when it does.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Erica pulls on the locked attic door.

ERICA: Lucas!

Erica bangs on the door.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Lucas starts to lose consciousness.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna: And remake it into something...beautiful.

Vecna wipes one of Eleven's tears away.

VECNA (CONT'D): There was a time when I had hoped to have you by my side. But now I just want you to watch.

Eleven whimpers. Vecna turns and walks away. A vine slithers down the door and wraps around Eleven's neck. She whimpers as Vecna walks towards Max. Max slowly comes to, and she starts whimpering when she sees Vecna in front of her. He puts his hand against her cheek.

VECNA (CONT'D): Don't be afraid.

Max sobs.

VECNA (CONT'D): Try and stay very still.

MAX: No.

VECNA: It will all be over soon.

Vecna stretches his hand over Max's face.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Max!

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Max's legs uncross as she starts rising in the air. Lucas sees her.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna's eyes roll into the back of her head.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Eleven jolts, panting and gasping for breath. The lights flicker intensely. Mike grabs her hand.

MIKE: El! El, can you hear me? El, come on. Wake up!

WILL: Get her out.

MIKE: Wake up El! Wake up!

JONATHAN: She can't breathe.

MIKE: El!

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven chokes for breath.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): El, get outta there!

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): God, El! Wake up! Wake up!

Mike pulls the pizza glasses off.

MIKE (CONT'D): Help me! Help me!

Mike, Jonathan, and Argyle lift Eleven out of the freezer and carry her towards the table. Will knocks the radio off it.

MIKE (CONT'D): On the table. Get her on the table.

The boys set Eleven down on the table. She coughs and splutters. Mike grabs her hand.

MIKE (CONT'D): El, can you hear me?

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): El! El! Can you hear me? El! El!

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): El!

Eleven coughs and gasps.

WILL: Mike.

Mike looks at Will.

WILL (CONT'D): Don't stop. Okay? You're the heart. Okay? Remember that. You're the heart.

Mike looks back at Eleven.

MIKE: El?

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven whimpers.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): I don't know if you can hear this, but...but if you can, I want you to know I'm here, okay? I'm right here.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): And...I love you.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven sobs.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): El, do you hear me? I love you.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): I'm sorry I don't say it more. I...It's not because I'm scared of you. I'm not. I've never felt that way.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): Never. But I am scared that one day...

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): You'll realise that you don't need me anymore. And I thought that if I said how I felt, it would somehow make that day hurt more. But the truth is, El, I don't know how to live without you.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): I feel like my life started that day we found you in the woods.

FLASHBACK – EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – NIGHT

It's raining. Mike, Lucas, and Dustin turn around, their torches shining on Eleven.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): *You were wearing that yellow Benny's Burgers t-shirt.*

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): And it was so big, it almost swallowed you whole.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven chuckles. The vine around her neck tightens.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): And I knew right then and there, in that moment, that I loved you.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): And I've loved you every day since.

Eleven's breathing starts to slow.

MIKE (CONT'D): I love you on your good days. I love you on your bad days.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven sobs.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): I love you with your powers, I love you without your powers.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): I love you for exactly who you are. You're my superhero.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): And...

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): I can't lose you.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): Okay? Do you hear me? I can't lose you.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): You can do anything. You can fly. You can move mountains. I believe that.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

A determined look crosses Eleven's face.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): I really do. But right now...

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): You just have to fight. Okay?

Eleven's breathing slows, and she stops trembling.

MIKE (CONT'D): El.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): Do you hear me?

Eleven looks over at Max and Vecna.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): You need to fight!

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): You have to fight. Fight!

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven closes her eyes and takes deep breaths.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): Fight!

The vine around Eleven's neck slowly starts to uncurl from her neck.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

The lights flicker intensely.

MIKE (CONT'D): That's it, El. Fight, El. Fight. Fight!

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

The vines around Eleven's wrists and ankles start uncurling.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Max hangs in the air. Seeing her, Lucas manages to gather the strength to push Jason's head into the window. He then starts punching him repeatedly, knocking him back until he falls unconscious on the floor.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna's nails did into Max's face. His eyes roll into the back of his head.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Lucas turns around and watches in horror as Max's limbs start to snap.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – NIGHT

The Demodog drools on Hopper's face as he tries to push it away. He yells.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie yells in pain as the Demobats bite into his body, tearing flesh. Dustin hobbles towards him.

DUSTIN: Eddie!

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna's nails did into Max's skin.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Max's limbs snap. Blood drips from her eyes.

LUCAS: Max!

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

MIKE: Fight!

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven yells as the vines let go of her, and she falls to her knees.

Cut to black.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna goes flying backwards, Eleven screaming as she uses her powers to throw him away from Max.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Hopper screams as he fights against the Demodog. Joyce runs down the hallway and stabs it in the side with the taser.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven screams as she throws him backwards. He hits a viny stalagmite with a grunt. The vines holding Max let her go.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Max falls to the ground. Lucas catches her.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Hopper throws the now dead Demodog off him.

HOPPER: Joyce!

Hopper grabs his gun.

JOYCE: Hop!

The pair hug each other tightly. There's screeching, and they turn to see the Demogorgon and Demodogs barrelling down the hallway towards them. Hopper grabs Joyce and they start running away. Hopper shoots at the Demogorgon.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

Joyce and Hopper round the corner into the Demogorgon pit, and Joyce runs for the cells. The Demogorgon chases them, shot at by Hopper as he runs after Joyce. The Demodogs enter the pit soon after. Joyce and Hopper run into a cell and close the door, standing to the back. The Demogorgon rips the door off and tosses it aside before screeching at them.

MURRAY: Hey, assholes!

The Demogorgon and Demodogs look up to see Murray above the pit, flamethrower in hand. He rains fire down on them, making them shriek. Hopper and Joyce turn to face the wall, with Hopper shielding Joyce. Murray yells with glee.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna yells in pain.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Dustin watches as the Demobats drop dead.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

Murray yells with glee as he torches the Demogorgon and Demodogs.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – HALLWAY – UPSIDE DOWN

The vines holding Steve, Robin, and Nancy let them go, and they all fall to the floor, gasping for breath.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

MURRAY (CONT'D): Yeah!

Murray rains fire down on the Demodog and Demogorgon. The fire kills the Demodogs but leaves the Demogorgon injured. Murray turns the flamethrower off, panting. Hopper and Joyce stand in the doorway of the cell, looking at the flaming bodies of the Demogorgon and Demodogs around them.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – HALLWAY – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve, Robin, and Nancy cough as they catch their breath. They watch in confusion as the vines around them slither away.

ROBIN: I don't believe in a higher power or divine intervention. But that was a miracle.

The trio stand up and turn to look at the attic door.

NANCY: Then we better not waste it.

Nancy cocks her gun.

STEVE: Phase four.

ROBIN: Flambe.

They head towards the attic.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

Hopper walks out of the cell, looking around. There's a growling, and he looks across the pit to see that the Demogorgon isn't dead. It spits out blood before pushing itself up into a standing position, turning to face Hopper. Hopper shoots at it, but the bullets have little affect on it. The gun runs out of bullets, and Hopper tosses it aside. He looks down, seeing a sword on the ground, one that was used by one of the other prisoners earlier. He picks it up, preparing to fight. The Demogorgon screeches at him.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven uses her powers to keep Vecna pinned against the stalagmite. He pants.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve, Robin, and Nancy walk into the attic to see Vecna suspended by vines.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Eleven uses her powers to keep Vecna pinned against the stalagmite. She walks towards him.

VECNA: You and your friends believe you have won. Don't you?

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Robin takes her bag off and sets it down on the floor. She and Steve grab a Molotov each.

VECNA (CONT'D)(O.S.): But this...

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

VECNA (CONT'D): Is only the beginning. The beginning of the end.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve and Robin nod at each other. Robin lights Steve's Molotov.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

VECNA (CONT'D): You have already lost.

ELEVEN: No. You have.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

Hopper faces off against the Demogorgon. It screeches, and they run towards each other.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve throws the Molotov at Vecna.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

Hopper swings at the Demogorgon, slicing its arm off.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

The Molotov hits Vecna in the chest. He yells in pain, him and his vines flaming.

INT./EXT. VECNA'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna yells in pain. He disappears into smoke. Eleven looks around as the red landscape disappears into smoke, putting her in the Void again.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

The vines in Vecna's back pull themselves out, dropping him to the ground.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Max opens her eyes. They're white.

LUCAS: Max! Max! Max!

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Vecna pushes himself up, staring at the trio. Flames rise from his body. He stares at them as he stands up. Robin lights her Molotov and tosses it at him. He yells as it hits him, stumbling backwards. He looks back up at them. Nancy walks towards him, gun raised. She fires at him, shooting him in the arm. He stumbles backwards, and she shoots him in the stomach as she advances on him. She shoots him in the other arm.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

The Demogorgon swings at Hopper with its remaining arm, but Hopper ducks.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Nancy shoots at Vecna again, and he falls onto a crate.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

Hopper raises the sword.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Vecna stands up.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

Hopper swings the sword with a yell, slicing the Demogorgon's head off.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Vecna yells. Nancy shoots him again, and he goes flying backwards. He crashes through the boards, splintering them, and his flaming body starts falling.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

The Demogorgon's lifeless body falls to the ground, it's head landing a few metres away.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – UPSIDE DOWN

Vecna's flaming body hits an awning as it falls, flipping over before landing on the ground with a loud thud.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Nancy lowers her gun.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON PIT – NIGHT

Hopper drops the sword, panting. Joyce runs up to him and hugs him tightly. He hugs her back. There's the sound of helicopter blades, and they look up to see Katinka flying towards them. It hovers above the prison. Yuri opens the door. Murray grins.

MURRAY: Son of a bitch!

Murray laughs. Yuri salutes. Dimitri waves.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Whoo! Yeah! Yeah! Katinka!

Joyce and Hopper hold each other tightly, smiling.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Yeah!

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – UPSIDE DOWN

Steve, Robin, and Nancy run outside, only to find Vecna's body gone. They stare down at the charring and flames on the ground, the only proof that his body even landed.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – UPSIDE DOWN

Eddie lies on the ground, choking on his own blood. Dustin hobbles towards him.

DUSTIN: Eddie! Eddie!

Dustin drops his spear.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Oh, God!

Dustin pulls Eddie into his lap.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Oh God, Eddie.

EDDIE: Bad, huh?

DUSTIN: No. No, you're gonna be fine. We just gotta get you to a hospital, okay?

EDDIE: Okay.

Dustin tries to lift Eddie up but struggles.

DUSTIN: All right. All right. All right. All right.

EDDIE: I think...

DUSTIN: Come on.

EDDIE: I think I just...I think I just need a second, okay?

DUSTIN: Okay.

Dustin looks down at Eddie, eyes filled with tears. Eddie coughs. He smiles at Dustin.

EDDIE: I didn't run away this time, right?

Dustin shakes his head.

DUSTIN: No. No. No. No. You didn't run.

EDDIE: You're gonna have to look after those little sheep for me, okay?

DUSTIN: No, you're gonna do that yourself.

EDDIE: Nah, man. Say, 'I'm gonna look after them'.

Dustin can't answer, too upset.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Say it.

Dustin sobs.

DUSTIN: (tearfully) I'm...I'm gonna look after...

EDDIE: Good. Cause I'm actually gonna graduate.

Eddie chuckles weakly.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I think it's my year, Henderson. (struggling) I think it's finally my year.

Eddie chuckles weakly.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I love you, man.

DUSTIN: (trembling) I love you too.

A tear rolls down Eddie's cheek. He looks scared.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie...

Eddie chokes.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie? Eddie?

The light goes out in Eddie's eyes, and he goes still. Dustin sobs.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie!

Dustin shakes Eddie.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Come on. Eddie!

Dustin sobs.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Erica breaks through the door and runs up the stairs.

ERICA: Lucas!

Lucas turns to look at Erica, Max laying in his lap.

LUCAS: We need a doctor! Call an ambulance!

Erica's eyes widen. She looks scared.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Hurry! Call an ambulance!

Erica turns and runs back down the stairs.

MAX: Lucas...

Lucas looks at Max.

LUCAS: Yes, yes, I'm here. I'm here.

MAX: I...I can't feel or...see anything.

LUCAS: I know. I know. It's okay. We're gonna get you some help, okay? Just...just hold on.

MAX: Lucas, I'm scared. I'm so scared. I'm so scared.

LUCAS: (tearfully) I know. I know. I know.

MAX: I don't wanna die. I'm not ready.

LUCAS: You're not gonna die. Hang on.

MAX: I don't wanna go! I'm not ready.

INT./EXT. VOID

Eleven kneels beside Max and Lucas, sobbing.

LUCAS: You're not gonna die! Just...just hang on!

Max's breathing starts to falter.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Max. Max! Max! Max, no. No, no, no, Max. Stay with me.

ELEVEN: No.

LUCAS: Stay with me! Don't go, Max. Max, stay with me. Just look at me, Max. Max, look.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

LUCAS (CONT'D): No. Stay with me, Max. Hang on. Just hang on.

Max chokes for breath. Lucas looks towards the stairs.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Erica, help!

Lucas looks back at Max, sobbing. Max's breathing slows, and the light in her eyes go out.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Max? Max? Max? Max? Max, stay with me. Max, stay with me. No! No! No! No!
No! Max! Max! Please, stay with me! No!

Lucas wails.

INT./EXT. VOID

Eleven sobs. She tries to shake Max.

ELEVEN: Max! Max!

A clock starts ticking. Gears whine.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – FOYER – UPSIDE DOWN

The clock chimes, and the trio whip around to face it. It chimes again. They run through the front door. It chimes again. They run up to it. It chimes again.

ROBIN: Four chimes.

NANCY: Max.

Steve looks worried at this realisation. The ground shakes violently, and they flail around for something to grab. The clock ticks quickly.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

A Gate starts to open.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Lucas pulls Max away as a Gate starts to open underneath her. It starts slowly ripping through the house, heading in the direction of the centre of town. Jason comes to just in time to be sliced in two as the Gate goes under him, howling in pain. The clock starts chiming over and over.

EXT. CREEL HOUSE – UPSIDE DOWN

The Gate rips through the front of the house and starts ripping towards the centre of town.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

A Gate rips through the side of the trailer.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – NIGHT

The Gate starts ripping towards the centre of town.

EXT. LOVER'S LAKE – NIGHT

The Gate starts ripping through the lake bed, caving the water in as it rips towards the centre of town.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

The Gate starts ripping towards the centre of town.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Pictures fall off the mantle as the ground shakes violently. Holly screams. Karen runs in.

KAREN: Holly! Holly!

Karen holds Holly tightly.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – FOYER – UPSIDE DOWN

The trio hold on to the pillar of the staircase as the ground shakes violently.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – NIGHT

Lucas holds Max as the ground around him shakes.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWKINS – NIGHT

The four Gates rip through Hawkins, headed towards the library. They converge right outside the library, their joining causing a large cloud to fan out. The chiming fades out, and the ground stops shaking.

INT. SURFER BOY PIZZA – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Eleven lays on the table, eyes moving under her eyelids. Mike holds her hand, breathing heavily.

MIKE: Come on. Come on. Come on. I know you're in there. I know you're in there. Wake up. Wake up.

INT./EXT. VOID

Eleven kneels beside Max and Lucas.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): Wake up.

Lucas holds Max in his lap, unsure what else to do. Eleven stares at Max, breathing heavily. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

ELEVEN: (softly) No.

Eleven opens her eyes.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): You're not going. No.

Eleven takes a deep breath before placing her hand on Max's chest. She closes her eyes, and a tear rolls down her cheek.

FLSHBCK – EXT. HARGROVE HOUSE – DAY

Eleven walks up to Max, holding her skateboard.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Hi.

MAX: Hi...?

ELEVEN (O.S.): Max wanted to have a sleepover.

FLSHBCK – INT. HARGROVE HOUSE – MAX'S ROOM – NIGHT

Max holds up two comic books.

MAX: Which one?

MAX (CONT'D)(O.S.): This is Wonder Woman.

FLSHBCK – INT. HARGROVE HOUSE – MAX’S ROOM – NIGHT

Eleven and Max lay in her bed. Max opens the Wonder Woman comic.

MAX (CONT'D): AKA Princess Diana.

MAX (CONT'D)(O.S.): Not Hopper. Not Mike.

FLSHBCK – INT. GAP – DAY

Max turns Eleven around in the mirror.

MAX (CONT'D): You.

Flashback to #303. Eleven’s room in Hopper’s cabin. Max dances around the room.

FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – ELEVEN’S ROOM – NIGHT

MAX (CONT'D): Holy shit. This is insane.

MAX (CONT'D)(O.S.): Is this really gonna work?

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – HALLWAY – DAY

Max and Eleven run through the mall, laughing.

MAX (CONT'D): See? What’d I tell you?

MAX (CONT'D)(O.S.): There’s more to life than stupid boys.

Flashback to #302. A Hawkins bus. Max and Eleven high five.

ELEVEN (O.S.): Against the rules?

Flashback to #308. Outside the Byers house. Max and Eleven hug.

FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – ELEVEN’S ROOM – NIGHT

MAX: We make our own rules.

INT./EXT. VOID

The camera lifts off the trio, spinning around as it gets higher.

Cut to black.

TWO DAYS LATER

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

Many cars drive out of Hawkins, passing Argyle’s van as it drives into Hawkins.

INT. ARGYLE’S VAN

The group watches the cars pass, confused.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

The van drives along. As the camera rises, we see a large line of cars waiting to leave Hawkins. As it rises even higher, we see big plumes of smoke rising into the sky. Helicopters fly overhead.

REPORTER (O.S.): It's been less than 48 hours since a 7.4 magnitude earthquake rocked the quaint town of Hawkins...

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

The van drives along. The group sees people packing into their cars to leave.

REPORTER (CONT'D)(O.S.): 80 miles from Indianapolis, in an event that seismologists are calling 'a natural disaster of near-unprecedented scale'. The death toll now stands at 22.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DAY

The van drives past the school. People mill outside, carrying supplies.

REPORTER (CONT'D)(O.S.): But with hundreds more filling Roane County hospitals and many more still missing, officials expect those numbers to rise.

EXT. HAWKINS PUBLIC LIBRARY – DAY

The van drives towards the centre of town. The library is half destroyed, smoke rising up from the area. Vines spread along the outside of part of the building. Police officers, military, and reporters stand behind the barricade. A soldier directs them away.

SOLDIER: Go! This way! This way! Let's go!

EXT. HAWKINS CHURCH – DAY

The van drives past the church, people filing inside.

REPORTER (O.S.): This is only the latest tragedy to befall this once safe town. Most recently, a string of high school students were killed in a series of ritualistic murders, which have been linked to a local satanic cult known as 'Hellfire'.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Ted watches the news on TV. Holly sits near the TV, playing with her Lite-Brite. Karen can be seen in the kitchen, packing things into a box.

REPORTER (CONT'D)(ON TV): Eddie Munson, the leader of this cult and prime suspect in the murders, has been missing since the earthquake and is presumed dead. But this offers little comfort to the people of Hawkins, who are scared, angry, and searching for answers. Why their town? What have they done to deserve so much suffering? A growing chorus believes the two recent tragedies are linked, claiming the Munson murders opened a doorway between worlds. A doorway, they say, into Hell itself.

TED: Are you hearing this? They're now calling it a doorway into hell.

Karen walks in carrying a box.

KAREN: Great. More hysteria. Just what we need.

TED: Well, it's the news. Now indistinguishable from the tabloids.

Karen leaves through the back door. Ted turns the TV off.

EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – DAY

Nancy, Robin, Steve, and Dustin help pack things into Steve's car. Karen walks up to them.

KAREN: Hey, Nance! I found some more of your old stuff in the attic.

Nancy walks up to Karen. She gasps, pulling a stuffed rabbit out of the box.

NANCY: Mr. Rabbit.

KAREN: It's okay if you want to save him, you know?

Nancy puts the rabbit back in the box.

NANCY: No, he'll be more loved in a new home.

Nancy takes the box from Karen and takes it to the car. Karen looks up the driveway as Argyle's van approaches.

KAREN: Someone order a pizza?

DUSTIN: Pizza?

Dustin, Steve, Robin, and Nancy look up the driveway. Jonathan honks as he pulls Argyle's van up. Mike, Will, Eleven, Jonathan, and Argyle climb out, standing at the top of the driveway. Both groups stare at each other, shocked but smiling.

EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – DAY

Both groups run towards each other. Mike runs towards Karen. Jonathan runs towards Nancy. Will and Eleven run towards Dustin.

MIKE: Mum!

Mike and Karen hug.

JONATHAN: Hey!

Jonathan and Nancy hug tightly. Will and Eleven hug Dustin tightly. Dustin chuckles.

EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – DAY

Karen pulls away from Mike.

KAREN: You are never going on vacation again, you hear me? In fact, you can forget about college. You are staying right here.

Karen hugs Mike again. Mike smiles.

EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – DAY

JONATHAN: Are you okay?

NANCY: Yeah. Yeah, I'm okay. But, Jonathan-

JONATHAN: This isn't an earthquake. I know. I know a lot more than you think.

NANCY: How? We've been trying to call you-

JONATHAN: I know. I know. I'm sorry. We just couldn't risk contact.

NANCY: 'We couldn't risk contact'?

JONATHAN: Hey, hey, I'll tell you everything, okay?

NANCY: Okay.

JONATHAN: I promise. But, for now, I'm just glad you're safe.

Jonathan kisses Nancy's forehead. They hug tightly.

EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – DAY

WILL: Where's Lucas?

DUSTIN: He's at the hospital.

ELEVEN: Was he hurt?

DUSTIN: No. No, he's...oh God. You don't know.

Will and Eleven glance at each other.

INT. HAWKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL – PATIENT ROOM – DAY

Max lays in bed, arms and legs bandaged. She wears a neck brace around her neck, and has a breathing tube up her nose. Lucas has a swollen eye as reads her *The Talisman* by Stephen King. Erica sits on a chair behind him.

LUCAS: 'He opened his eyes, and further words died in his throat. He forgot about the need to sick up that horrible parody of wine. He forgot about his mother, and Uncle Morgan, and his father, and almost everything else. Speedy was gone. The graceful arcs of the roller coaster against the sky were gone. He could feel the hair stirring on the nape of his neck, could feel a goofed-up grin pulling at the corners of his mouth. "Speedy! I'm here, my God! I'm here in the territories!"'

Lucas looks up at Max. She doesn't respond. The door opens, and Lucas and Erica look up to see Mike, Will, Eleven, Jonathan, and Nancy walk in. Eleven wears a hoodie over her head in an attempt to disguise herself.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Oh, my God.

Lucas puts the book down. He stands up and rounds the bed.

LUCAS (CONT'D): We've been calling you guys like crazy.

Lucas hugs Mike and Will.

MIKE: I know. We came as soon as we heard.

Lucas looks up and sees Eleven. Mike and Will pull away. Eleven walks forward and hugs Lucas tightly.

ELEVEN: I'm sorry.

Eleven catches sight of Max. She slowly lets go of Lucas, who turns to look at Max. Eleven pulls the hood off and slowly walks towards Max. Mike and Will follow. Eleven puts her head on Mike's shoulder, and he puts his arm around hers.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Do they know...

Eleven looks at Lucas.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): When she will wake?

Lucas looks like he doesn't want to answer.

LUCAS: No. They said she might not.

Eleven looks at Max.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Her heart stopped. For over a minute. She died. I...I mean, clinically, but...then she came back.

Lucas takes a deep breath.

LUCAS (CONT'D): The doctors don't know how. They say it's a miracle.

Will and Mike look at each other, then look at Eleven. She doesn't look at them. Eleven sits on the bed, gently taking one of Max's hands.

ELEVEN: I'm here, Max.

Eleven closes her eyes. The room around her fades.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – DAY

Steve opens his boot. He, Robin, and Dustin reach in and pull boxes out. Steve closes the boot as they walk towards the gym. Dustin walks with a limp.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – DAY

Steve, Dustin, and Robin walk through the gym. People mingle around. Beds are set up for those who lost their homes. There's a missing persons board set up along one wall, with lots of missing posters tacked to it. There's even one of Eddie, but it's been defaced with devil horns, pitchforks, and a pentagram. They reach the far end of the table, where a donation table is set up. Melissa looks up at them as they approach. They set the boxes down on the table.

ROBIN: Hi.

MELISSA: Hi.

ROBIN: Uh, so these are blankets and sheets. And some...some clothes and...and some kids' toys.

MELISSA: Wow. It's already so organised. We appreciate that. Do you want a tax receipt for it?

ROBIN: Um...

Robin looks at Steve. He shakes his head.

ROBIN (CONT'D): No. I don't think we need one. Thank you, though. But...is there anything else that we can do to help?

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – CAFETERIA – DAY

Steve follows a volunteer.

VOLUNTEER: Okay, then we sort by age. We've got infants, girls, boys, men, women...oh, if anything is in too bad shape, we really don't want that.

The camera travels over to the food area, where Robin makes PB&Js.

VICKIE (O.S.): I found another jar of peanut butter, and it's crunchy this time...

Robin turns around to see Vickie standing in the doorway. Vickie stops and stares at her.

VICKIE (CONT'D): Robin.

ROBIN: Hi.

VICKIE: What are you doing here?

ROBIN: I am...

Robin looks at the knife in her hand.

ROBIN (CONT'D): I...I am making PB&Js.

VICKIE: Right, yeah. No. Duh. Of course. Uh, I...I am also making PB&Js, as it so happens.

Vickie chuckles awkwardly.

ROBIN: Cool.

Robin turns back around. Vickie walks up to the table and stands beside her, both of them making PB&Js.

VICKIE: Hey, uh, I...I'm sorry if that came out weird. 'What are you doing here?' I didn't mean it like 'What are you doing here?' I just meant like 'Oh, what are you doing here?' Like, 'Nice surprise. Great to see you'. Uh...

ROBIN: I didn't take it as anything negative.

VICKIE: Okay, good. Good. You're good. No, I...I'm sorry. My brain's just been a little frazzled lately. Cause-

ROBIN: Of everything?

VICKIE: Yeah. Yeah, and Dan. Um, he's my boyfriend. Well, was my boyfriend. Um, he was visiting, and took one look at this, and, let's just say, it's not what he was envisioning for his spring break. So he was like 'I'm outta here. Back to Purdue. Good luck, Vic'. Okay, which, ultimately, yeah, it's fine, and it's bordering on a good thing, cause, I mean, he was really grating on me. And he is the type of person who trashes Fast Times cause it has no plot. I mean, as soon as he said that, I should've just ended things right there and then.

Robin smiles at Vickie.

VICKIE (CONT'D): Sorry.

Vickie sighs.

VICKIE (CONT'D): I'm so sorry. I'm...I am rambling about my dumb boyfriend when there are people out there suffering. Who need...food. And I have just made a peanut butter on peanut butter monstrosity.

Robin chuckles. She hands Vickie the jam.

VICKIE (CONT'D): Um...

Robin smiles at Vickie, who smiles back. Robin chuckles slightly.

VICKIE (CONT'D): I don't know what's wrong with me. Um, it's like sometimes my mouth is moving faster than my brain, and it's like this runaway train, and I cannot seem to get it to stop, no matter how hard I try. You know what I mean?

ROBIN: Uh, yeah, I think I know what you mean.

Vickie puts the PB&PB in front of Robin.

VICKIE: It's a gift.

ROBIN: Oh.

VICKIE: You're welcome.

ROBIN: For me?

VICKIE: Mmm-hmm.

ROBIN: Oh, you really shouldn't have.

VICKIE: Oh, but I did.

Steve watches Robin and Vickie as he folds clothes.

ROBIN (O.S.): Oh.

VICKIE (O.S.): But I did.

ROBIN (O.S.): But I just don't even deserve it. I mean, thank you.

VICKIE (O.S.): Happy birthday. I mean, early birthday.

ROBIN: Thank you so much. Oh, oh, wow.

Steve shakes his head, smiling.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – DAY

Dustin walks through the stretchers, giving cups of water to anyone who wants one.

DUSTIN: H2O? Vital for all forms of life.

Dustin hands a girl a cup and keeps walking. He looks towards the missing persons board and sees Wayne, who takes down a defaced Eddie poster and puts up a fresh one.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Mr. Munson?

Wayne turns around. Dustin sets his tray of water down and hobbles towards Wayne.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I'm Dustin Henderson. Can we talk?

WAYNE: I can't imagine we got anything to talk about. My nephew is innocent. He's still missing. I'll put up as many posters as I need until he's found.

Wayne grabs his bag and walks past Dustin.

WAYNE (CONT'D): Good day to you.

DUSTIN: I was with him.

Wayne stops and turns around.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I was with him when the earthquake hit.

WAYNE: And...where is Eddie now?

Dustin starts crying. He pulls Eddie's necklace out of his pocket and holds it out to Wayne.

DUSTIN: I'm...I'm so sorry.

Wayne drops his bag. He takes Eddie's necklace, staring at it. He starts crying, taking a shaky breath. He moves to sit on a stretcher. Dustin hobbles over and sits next to him.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I wish everyone had gotten to know him. Really know him. Because they would've loved him, Mr. Munson. They would've loved him. Even in the end...he never stopped being Eddie. Despite everything. I never even saw him get mad. He could've run. He could've saved himself. But he fought. He fought and died to protect this town. This town that...hated him. He isn't just innocent...Mr. Munson, he's...he's a hero.

Wayne sobs.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

Argyle's van drives through the woods towards Hopper's cabin. Nancy, Mike, Will, Argyle, and Jonathan get out and walk towards the cabin. Eleven gets out and stares at the cabin, taking a deep breath before walking towards it.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Jonathan opens the door and walks inside, followed by the others. The place is still a mess from when Jason, Andy, and Patrick ransacked it while looking for Eddie.

JONATHAN: Oh, Jesus.

MIKE: Holy shit. This place is a total disaster.

JONATHAN: Yeah.

Jonathan looks up at the hole in the roof made by the Spider Monster the year before.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Well, that's a bit of a problem.

ARGYLE: I mean, I get we gotta hide Supergirl and all, but this isn't exactly the Fortress of Solitude, man. It's more like a fortress of grodiness.

NANCY: Come on, guys, seriously. I've seen Mike's room look worse than this.

ARGYLE: Ah, brutal, dude.

Nancy tries the kitchen sink. It turns on, the water running. She turns it off.

NANCY: Ah! See? Water still works.

Nancy opens a cupboard and pulls out a box of cleaning supplies, putting it on the kitchen bench.

NANCY (CONT'D): And viola. Cleaning supplies.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Mike and Will use brooms to try and sweep the floor. Eleven walks around with a rubbish bag, grabbing rubbish. Nancy and Jonathan work to board up the broken windows.

EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – DAY

Nancy and Jonathan put a board up to one of the kitchen windows.

JONATHAN: All right. That's good. Hold it right there.

Nancy holds the board in place as Jonathan hammers a nail in. She looks around while she waits, catching sight of Argyle in the woods.

NANCY: What's he doing?

Jonathan turns and looks at Argyle, who picks up a mushroom.

JONATHAN: Looks like he's gathering mushrooms. He's a little on the eccentric side.

NANCY: Well, welcome to the club, right?

JONATHAN: Yeah, welcome to the club.

Nancy starts hammering nails into her side of the board.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Hey, Nancy?

NANCY: Yeah?

JONATHAN: I'm sorry I wasn't here.

NANCY: Oh. I mean...to be honest, I'm kinda glad you weren't.

Jonathan looks a little confused.

NANCY (CONT'D): I just mean, I'm glad you were with Mike. And Will.

JONATHAN: And I'm...I'm glad you were here too. Otherwise, who'd have been in charge? Steve?

Jonathan chuckles.

NANCY: He's actually grown up quite a bit, you know?

JONATHAN: Yeah. Yeah, I'm sure.

Jonathan goes to hammer again, but stops.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Hey.

NANCY: Yeah?

JONATHAN: Are we okay?

NANCY: Yeah.

JONATHAN: Yeah?

NANCY: Yeah, totally. Yeah, it's...it's just...you know, it's hard. I feel like life keeps throwing things in the way of our big plans.

JONATHAN: Yeah, sure seems like that.

NANCY: You think it's, uh, too late to throw 'saving the world' on your college resume?

Jonathan chuckles slightly.

NANCY (CONT'D): Your...your application letter...not that it matters at all anymore, but...did it ever come?

JONATHAN: No. No, uh...not yet.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Eleven grabs rubbish from the bathroom and walks towards her room, glancing at Mike as she passes. She walks into her room, using her powers to close the door, leaving it ajar. Mike and Will watch her.

WILL: Did she...talk to you at all?

MIKE: Not much. I mean, a little bit.

Mike sighs.

MIKE (CONT'D): Dr. Brenner.

Mike and Will sit on the upturned couch.

MIKE (CONT'D): He says that she wasn't ready. And now she's starting to think he was right.

WILL: That's crap. If it wasn't for her, if she hadn't left the lab, Max wouldn't be alive right now.

MIKE: I know. It's just, she's, um...she's never lost before. Not like this.

WILL: She'll have another chance.

MIKE: Let's hope not. Let's hope One is dead and rotting.

WILL: He's not. Now that I'm here, in Hawkins, I can feel him. And he's hurt. He's hurting. But he's still alive. It's strange, knowing now who it was this whole time, but...I can still remember what he thinks, and how he thinks. And he's not going to stop. Ever. Not until he's taken everything. And everyone. We have to kill him.

MIKE: And we will. We will.

There's the sound of a vehicle approaching. Will and Mike stand up, moving to look through a hole to see a black car driving past.

EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – DAY

Jonathan and Nancy look up as the black car pulls up behind Argyle's van.

JONATHAN: Government.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – DAY

Eleven kneels on the ground as she puts rubbish into the rubbish bag. She catches sight of a coke bottle underneath the bed, and she bends down to reach for it. She stares at it, a tear rolling down her cheek. She puts it on the cardboard and spins it, tears welling in her eyes as she watches it.

FLSHBCK – INT. HAWKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL – PATIENT ROOM – DAY

Eleven sits next to Max, holding her hand. She closes her eyes, and the world around her fades.

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. VOID

Eleven opens her eyes with a gasp. She looks around. There's nothing there.

ELEVEN: Max? Max?

Eleven starts looking around, getting worried.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Max! Max! Max!

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – DAY

The bottle stops spinning. Eleven lets out a shuddering breath. There's noise from outside, and Eleven stands up. The front door opens, and footsteps approach. Eleven looks scared. The door opens, and Hopper smiles at her.

HOPPER: Hey, kid.

Eleven bursts into tears.

ELEVEN: (voice cracking) Hi.

Hopper walks towards Eleven. She hugs him tightly, tears rolling down her cheeks. Hopper smiles into the hug.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I kept it open. I kept the door open three inches.

HOPPER: I know.

Eleven pulls away from Hopper but doesn't let go of him.

ELEVEN: I never stopped believing.

HOPPER: Oh, I know. It's okay.

Hopper chuckles.

HOPPER (CONT'D): It's okay.

Eleven sobs.

HOPPER (CONT'D): It's okay. I'm here.

Eleven nods.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I'm here.

Hopper moves to sit on the bed, pulling Eleven with him. He takes off his hat.

ELEVEN: You look...

Eleven sniffles.

HOPPER: Not fat?

Eleven chuckles. She reaches up to touch his head.

ELEVEN: And your hair.

HOPPER: My hair?

Hopper reaches up to touch Eleven's head.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Look at your hair.

Eleven chuckles. Hopper kisses her on the forehead, then touches his forehead to hers.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Yeah. I kinda stole your look, kid.

Eleven pulls away, chuckling slightly.

ELEVEN: Yeah.

HOPPER: Well, what do you think?

ELEVEN: Bitchin'.

HOPPER: Hmm.

Eleven chuckles. She hugs Hopper again, holding him tightly. There's chatter outside, and Eleven pulls away to look at the door. She looks at Hopper, who smiles, before looking towards the door, smiling herself.

EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – DAY

Eleven walks out, standing on the porch. Joyce hugs Will and Jonathan tightly. Mike and Nancy stand back. Hopper stands behind Eleven.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You aren't the only one that didn't stop believing.

Eleven puts her head on Hopper's chest, smiling. Joyce spots Eleven, and the boys pull away from her. Eleven chuckles, waving. She walks down the steps as Joyce walks towards her, and they hug tightly.

JOYCE: Oh!

They pull away, but hold onto each other's arms.

ELEVEN: I'm happy you went to your...

Eleven turns to look at Hopper.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Conference.

Eleven turns back to Joyce.

JOYCE: That was quite the experience.

They hug again.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Oh.

Hopper walks down the steps. He salutes his hat to Stinson, who stands watching from the car. She gets in and drives off. Hopper puts his hat back on, looking at Mike. Mike walks towards him, smiling a little awkwardly.

MIKE: Hey.

HOPPER: You've grown.

MIKE: Yeah. You shrunk.

Hopper chuckles. He pulls Mike in for a hug. Will watches them. The hairs on the back of his neck suddenly stand up, and he reaches up as he turns around. Jonathan notices. Will stares at the sky, breath quickening. Grey clouds start to roll in, and thunder rumbles. Everyone turns to look. Particles start to fill the air. Eleven catches one on her finger.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Holly looks out the window.

HOLLY: Mum, it's snowing!

Karen joins Holly at the window, looking out at the particles with confusion.

INT. HAWKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL – PATIENT ROOM – DAY

Lucas and Erica look out the window at the particles. They look at each other, then back out the window.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – CAFETERIA – DAY

Steve, Robin, Vickie, and other volunteers look out the window. Steve and Robin seems to recognise what the particles are.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – DAY

People mill outside, looking at the sky and at the particles with confusion. Dustin pushes his way through the ground. He realises what the particles are, and he looks horrified.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

Hopper, Eleven, Jonathan, Will, Joyce, Mike, and Nancy walk through the woods. Particles fill the air.

EXT. HAWKINS – GRASSY HILL – DAY

They leave the woods, finding themselves atop a grassy hill that overlooks Hawkins. Part of the grass has wilted and turned grey. They stop in the green grass, but Eleven continues walking into the grey grass. She kneels down, plucking a decaying flower. She looks out at Hawkins, where plumes of smoke rise from the Gates. A large, dark cloud rises from the centre, red lightning flashing inside. The plumes and the dark cloud meet in the sky, blanketing the sky over Hawkins with darkness. Eleven stands up, looking out at Hawkins with a determined look on her face.

CUT TO TITLE CARD. STRANGER THINGS 4.

END EPISODE.

END SEASON FOUR.